



## **Reducing the risk of timber frame fires during construction**

### **Wireless site fire alarm systems**

The UKTFA represents the timber frame industry and has prepared this data sheet in order to present to main contractors, insurers and professional advisors the recommendations of the UKTFA Members with regards to appropriate fire alarm systems.

The UKTFA is continuously researching all relevant aspects of fire safety. Revised guidance will be available on a regular basis. Please contact the UKTFA for the latest information.

#### **Current guidance**

*The UKTFA has current guidance on site fire prevention, Sitesafe and the 16 steps to fire safety on timber frame construction sites. For further information on these, please see the end of this document*

### **Wire-Free Fire Detection and Alarm Systems for Timber Frame Construction Sites**

Site fire prevention is essential in combating the risk from arson or even the unlikely event of accidental fire. However, if a fire does start, the speed with which it can be fought becomes of greatest importance for both life and property safety.

In the case of arson, it is the speed with which the fire service can be alerted which will have the greatest impact on the amount of damage incurred.

In the event of a fire starting during working hours, early alarm will provide additional time for site workers to exit the site safely.

Wireless detection and alarm solutions are available for timber frame construction sites. Fast, easy to use and no wires, mess and little disruption. The impracticalities of wired alarm systems usually result in no system being installed within the building during construction. A wireless detection and alarm system solves the impracticality problems by omitting the most impractical aspect- the wires.

A wireless detection and alarm system would provide invaluable time at the most crucial point in the life and property safety process.

Features of a wireless detection and alarm system are:

- Radio heat detectors / alarms
- Optical smoke detector / alarm
- Wireless sounders / beacons
- 6 alarm zones with individual identification of the device in alarm
- 100 metre operating distance (can be extended)
- Radio controlled panel to connect up to 100 radio detection devices
- Push Button detector, manual call point, with Isolator.
- Internal battery back-up

For further information on wireless alarm systems contact the UKTFA.

### **Sitesafe**

The SiteSafe procedure has been developed by the UKTFA to ensure manufacturing member companies work closely with Principal Contractors/Clients to give clear concise information and assistance to the Principal Contractor regarding fire safety on construction sites.

Adoption of SiteSafe is a mandatory requirement of Membership of the UKTFA on 'Large' timber frame projects.

Sitesafe is a procedural process which may necessitate actions to prevent site fires as a result of an individual risk assessment. The risk assessment should consider the items contained in the 16 steps document.

SiteSafe is a 3 stage process for use in the pre-construction planning stage, the site stage when the timber frame is being erected and after the UKTFA Member Company has handed over the structure to the Principal Contractor or Client.

Full details of Sitesafe can be found at [www.uktfa.com](http://www.uktfa.com)

### **The 16 Steps**

A key part of the Sitesafe process is the adherence to the "16 steps to fire safety on timber frame construction sites". This is a recent document prepared by the UKTFA which outlines the process which must be gone through in order to perform a thorough risk analysis of a timber frame construction site.

The 16 steps document containing all the detail can be accessed by following this link <http://www.uktfa.com/#/uktfa-literature-downloads/4538897734>

The use of UKTFA Members will ensure the use of Sitesafe, the 16 steps and all other relevant fire prevention and safety legislation. Only the use of UKTFA Members can achieve this.

Membership of the UKTFA is the guarantee of quality in the timber frame industry.

For further information on any aspect of timber frame please contact the UKTFA at:-

UKTFA The e centre, Cooperage Way, Alloa, FK103LP  
01259 272140 office@uktfa.com www.uktfa.com