

Fire Risk in Timber Frame

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Outline

- HSE remit
- Management of risk and guidance
- Working with stakeholders
- Activities on site

HSE Remit

- Work activities
- Fire risk during construction phase – workers and others – people not property
- Risks to fire fighters (but out of scope of this work)
- Not occupied building safety - for other regulators
- Main legislation Construction Design and Management Regs 2007 and Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

History

- large TF fires eg Colindale, Peckham
- Potential for significant injury (not realised)
- Concern about risks during construction phase
- Political interest

Risk Management and Guidance

- HSE approach is identifying and reducing risk - ie managing not eliminating
- Hierarchical approach – designing out better than bolting on protection or relying on safe systems and people

Key HSE publications

- Fire Safety in Construction HSG 168 revised and published Oct 2010
- Not confined to TF
 - Classed as higher fire risk method of construction and calls for additional precautions
- Explains roles and responsibilities of clients, designers, CDM coordinators and contractors



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Fire safety in construction



Date of publication: 2010
 ISBN: 978 0 7176 6345 3
 Series code: HSG168
 Price: £10.95
[Buy or download free](#)

The second edition of Fire safety in construction explains how everyone involved in construction projects can comply with their legal duties relating to fire risks. It is aimed at all those with a role for developing and managing construction sites, including clients and designers, and is relevant to all construction projects, including small refurbishment sites. Much of what is contained in the guidance is not new, but the sections covering multi-storey buildings and high risk building such as timber frame have been strengthened to include lessons learned from recent fires.

Each year there are hundreds of fires on construction sites, potentially putting the lives of workers and members of the public at risk. Fire safety in construction is about preventing fires from starting and ensuring people's safety if they do.

Related resources



Essentials of health and safety at work (Fourth edition)



Workplace health, safety and welfare. Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations

1992

See also

- ▶ Risk management

Key publications continued

- **Preventing catastrophic events in construction** Research Report RR 834 published 2011

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr834.pdf>

Working with Stakeholders

- Long relationship with UKTFA
- Involvement in development of Sixteen Steps and Site Safe through direct relationship and working groups
- Publication of HSG 168/ incidents encouraged UKTFA to embark on research/guidance

Working with Stakeholders

- UKTFA proposed development of model and guidance for assessing off site risk
- HSE encouraged
- “our” technical expert from Health and Safety Laboratory has been fully engaged in development of the guidance including challenging assumptions and guiding on pragmatic approach to testing
- Continued to Revision – endorsed by HSE

HSE on site

- Regulatory role
- My team trains inspectors and provides enforcement lines
- Field inspectors aware of and applying guidance
- Work plan commitment to test approach to fire safety on TF sites nationally (not just UKTFA members)

HSE on site

- Inspectors form a judgement about enforcement action based on level of risk and its control
- May seek back-up from specialist fire inspectors
- My team coordinates efforts and works centrally and nationally with stakeholders
- Feedback loop

Findings emerging from field work

- Possible lack of understanding about design rather than add-on
- Quality of specialist advice
- Over reliance on untested shields
- Need to address supply and demand
- Communications exercise

Summary

- Important area of work
- Requirements set out in law and HSE publishes broad guidance on complying
- Welcome revised UKTFA guidance - supplements specifically and in detail
- Following guidance not compulsory but we are using as a benchmark
- We will continue to work with UKTFA and others to ensure risk managed

Health and Safety
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Thank you