

firesafe solutions

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd

COST EFFECTIVE FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Fire Risk Assessments • Design & Planning
Fire Provision Reports • Legislation Interpretation
Fire Authority Consultation • Fire Training

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Company Profile

Background

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd is a fire safety consultancy and training company founded in 2000 to supply fire safety services to commercial organisations.

The company has grown to become an established nationwide fire consultancy working for a wide range of companies to help ensure they stay within the law in a cost-effective way.

Services

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd provides a wide range of fire safety services to the commercial sector including:

- Fire Risk Assessments (FRA)
- Fire Safety Design & Planning reports
- Client Defence (Fire Authority Consultation)
- House in Multiple Occupation Surveys (HMO)
- Fire Safety Training (Theory & Practical)

Core Values

We are not just invested in our work, we invest in our clients too, working with them to provide a quality service that meets their individual needs and goals.

At Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd we are passionate about what we do. We continuously move forward, innovating and improving our systems of work and processes.

We strive to excel at everything we do promoting excellent customer service though supporting our team in all aspects of their roles.

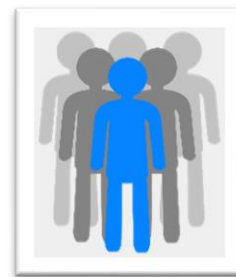
We pride ourselves on our integrity. Clients trust us to keep to our word and we are open and honest in all our undertakings.

Staff

Leah Greenbank is the Managing Director and Kirsty Dunkley the Office Manager. Kirsty leads a team of five from our head office ensuring that during office hours clients always have an administration contact available. In addition to the administration team, a duty consultant is available for technical queries and advice.

Our consultants come from a variety of backgrounds including the fire service and commercial organisations and all have technical fire safety qualifications. To be employed by Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd our consultants must meet our minimum competency requirements. Our requirements are based on the Competency Criteria for Fire Risk Assessors from the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council.¹

To maintain high levels of competency in their field of work each consultant is required to undertake training and performance appraisals throughout the year. All consultants are required to keep a record of their CPD activities which fall in line with the IFEs list of recognised CPD activities.²



¹ Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council (21/12/11). *Competency Criteria for Fire Risk Assessors Version 1*

² Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE) (2016). *Recognised CPD Activities, CPD/Activities - 0813*

Accreditation

BAFE Fire Safety Register (SP205)

Did you know that the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council recommends the use of fire risk assessment companies which are third party certified to appropriate schemes operated by Certification Bodies which have been UKAS accredited?

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd has gained third party accreditation through the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) and is a BAFE SP205 company for life safety fire risk assessments. The BAFE SP205 scheme was developed specifically to ensure the competence and reliability of a company commissioned to carry out Fire Risk Assessments.



We strive to continually offer our clients the best service possible and by gaining third party accreditation we are demonstrating our commitment to all of you. Furthermore, it gives you assurance of the competency of our assessors, our quality of our work and management systems.

Altius Supplier Network

The Altius accreditation scheme demonstrates our level of commitment to best practice in commercial, risk and quality management. When taking supplier compliance into account, clients may consider supplier competency, capacity, commitment, control, consistency and cleanliness.³ The Altius accreditation assures you that we take these issues seriously and that we monitor internal processes through consistent compliance reviews throughout the year.



Through Altius we gain our listing on the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) portal. The SSIP is an umbrella accreditation ensuring that companies are compliant with health and safety and CDM regulations. It demonstrates that we are trying to actively reduce health and safety costs, and provide transparency and clarity and that we are keeping up to date with compliance.

Institute of Fire Engineers- Register of Fire Risk Assessors

We have several fire risk assessors that are on the Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE) approved register of Fire Risk Assessors (<https://www.ife.org.uk/Fire-Risk-Assessors-Register>). They have established competency standards against which Fire Risk Auditors are assessed and all applicants must demonstrate to a professional review panel suitable education, training and experience in the principles of fire safety and fire risk assessment and this involves submitting examples of their work for evaluation.⁴

If you require further information on any of the company's accreditations please do not hesitate to call 0845 456 5121



³ Dr Ray Carter's '10 Cs of Supplier Evaluation

⁴ Institute of Fire Engineers, (September 2017) Retrieved from <http://www.ife.org.uk/Fire-Risk>

Head Office

Located off Junction 7 of the M27 Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd has good access to motorway routes. Our modern, light and airy office provides staff with excellent facilities for day to day working. We have plenty of parking and a large meeting room where we hold our annual general meeting and host our visiting clients. All clients are encouraged to visit and view our daily working practices.



To provide true national coverage, we have employed staff across the country working from their homes, this allows us to work with national clients, providing consistency at a cost-effective price.

Clients

Our portfolio of clients ranges from; national breweries and pub chains, universities, colleges and private schools, hospitals and care home groups, local authorities and councils as well as small companies and individuals.

Their portfolio of premises ranges from pubs, restaurants and hotels to offices, educational establishments, industrial sites, accommodation, care homes and hospitals.



Fire Risk Assessment (FRA)

What is a Fire Risk Assessment?

A Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) is a comprehensive, methodical inspection of the workplace, processes and occupiers as well as policies and procedures to ensure the safety of any relevant person in, on, or near the premises. The FRA identifies areas of weakness that may leave staff or visitors at risk from fire and its effects. It should be noted it is life safety based (considers the people) and not property protection based.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, an FRA is required for most workplaces in England and Wales, other than domestic dwellings. The legislation requires the responsible person to ensure an FRA has been completed. Where the premises are licensed or the organisation employs more than four persons this assessment must be recorded.

There are similar requirements in Scotland under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, and in Northern Ireland under the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Our FRA Methodology

When requested to complete a Fire Risk Assessment the Administration team discuss access requirements with the client and agree on a suitable date and time for the inspection. The consultant will arrive at the pre-arranged date and time and present themselves using photographic identification. They can be further identified by their uniform which has the company logo embroidered above the left breast pocket.

The consultant will need to spend a small amount of time with the responsible person to learn about the company, the premises; including local alarms, emergency procedures and any relevant health and safety issues.

A full visual inspection of the premises and surrounding area, taking notes as appropriate will be conducted. Access to all areas of the premises is required. A maintenance person or keys may need to be available to access areas such as risers and storage cupboards. This is a full visual inspection of the premises; no destructive tests are routinely carried out and alarms will only be operated with the consent of the client who retains responsibility for the systems.

The Consultant is looking at many issues when carrying out this inspection, not limited to but including the following:

- The occupiers
- The work processes
- How they will be alerted to a fire
- The means of escape
- The lighting of escape route(s)
- Firefighting equipment
- Fire prevention
- Staff training
- Policies and procedures
- The threat of arson

At the end of the assessment where possible we do ask that a responsible person be available for a short closing meeting to discuss any significant findings.

The Consultant will, on return to the office write a report on the findings which will state not just what was found but what needs to be done to correct the problems. This will be in plain English not Jargon, ensuring the document can be easily understood. This report is then audited before being sent to the client in hard form and/or electronic.

Costs

Please call the office for a competitive quotation today.



Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

What is a House in Multiple Occupation?



Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are dwellings occupied by more than one household who share facilities, sometimes called a "house share". Some of these premises will require licensing with the local authority and all will need to ensure they provide adequate fire safety and welfare provisions.

A household is either a single person or members of the same family who live together. A family includes people who are:

- married or living together - including people in same-sex relationships
- relatives or half-relatives, e.g. grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings
- step-parents and step-children

A dwelling is an HMO if:

- at least 3 tenants live there; and
- the tenants form more than 1 household.

An HMO is generally licensable if:

- at least 5 tenants live there; and
- the tenants form more than 1 household.

It is worth noting that what constitutes a licensable HMO varies between England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and individual council authorities at their discretion set their own levels for HMO licensing.

Applicable Legislation

HMOs are covered by the:

- Housing Act 2004 which concentrates on health and safety in the house
- The Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (Prescribed Description) (England) Order 2018; and
- The Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (Mandatory Conditions of Licences) (England) Regulations

This legislation applies regardless of whether the property is licensable or not.

Why do I need an HMO license?

Standards in and management of multi-occupied housing has been an issue of concern for many years. With accommodation being let in potentially dangerous conditions, legislation was implemented to control and improve these standards.

Local authorities were given the power to oversee these properties to ensure that they meet certain standards of fire safety as well as welfare and hence the licensing scheme was introduced to manage these properties.

Local authorities run their own additional HMO licensing schemes, such as Oxford where all HMOs must be licensed therefore you should check with your local authority to ascertain whether your HMO is licensable.

How can we help?

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd can inspect and report on the improvements needed and will even liaise on your behalf (acting as an agent) with the local authority to ensure you gain the license as quickly and cost effectively as possible.

This 'one stop shop' is useful to clients as there is no need to employ staff and train them to do this work whilst fighting off local authority inspectors when we already have the experience and expertise to do it for you.

Design and Planning

Compliance with and work approved by Building Regulations will not in itself ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

This can be extremely frustrating but more importantly costly to you when you find out after a new build or major alterations that the local authority fire officer is asking for additional fire safety provisions.

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd work with architects and designers at the design stage of building developments to ensure their ideas do not create fire safety issues once built.



Working in this way saves the client a great deal of time and money by ensuring there are no embarrassing post development alterations or local authority licence requirements.

Our qualified consultants will assess plans and designs to ensure that they not only comply with all the relevant legislation but that solutions identified are the most cost-effective.

A small investment at the design stage pays dividends for the future.

Plans Inspections

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd offer a unique 'pre-project design and planning' service where our qualified consultants assess plans and designs to ensure that they not only comply with all the relevant legislation but that it has been done in the most cost-effective way.

Of course, you could rely on the local authority fire officer or building control officer to tell you this when your plans go for Building Regulations submission. But the truth is, they will not tell you about 'over provision' and in most cases fire officers comments will merely state 'please note the premises is subject to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and a suitable fire risk assessment will be required'.

Once provided with the plans our consultants will assess them considering the proposed use and legislation and prepare a detailed written report. Frequently our Consultants will report back to clients that their designs show an over provision of fire detection or signage so saving the client money.

Fire Provision Reports

If you are responsible for programming a new installation of a fire alarm or emergency lighting system in your premises you will be investing a large sum of money into something you may only have limited knowledge of.

You can of course get advice from the company you have chosen to install the system as to the type and most importantly, quantity of fixings but our experience highlights distinct disadvantages in doing this.

The company may be very knowledgeable regarding the systems they fit but we frequently find they fit the systems rigidly in line with the British Standard. This is not how it should be used. The British Standards are "guidance" documents but many people are frightened to vary from them because they do not have the background fire safety knowledge to allow them to. This will result in an over provision of equipment.

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd are professional fire consultants so we know when and where it is safe to move away from the British Standard. Employing us to review installation plans will guarantee you get the installation that is appropriate to your premises and the way they are being used.

Fire Safety Training

Legislation dictates that your staff must receive training in fire safety with some being trained in the use of firefighting equipment. The level and depth of training will depend on the processes, products and type of work your employees carry out.

A small business with no dangerous substances or procedures and which operates in simple premises will only require basic fire safety awareness. However, where you operate with dangerous substances or with large numbers of people, particularly where the public are concerned, the level and depth of training will need to be more involved.



Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd can provide all levels of training, presented by experienced trainers with site specific training packages.

Course Structure

A typical Fire Awareness Course is approximately 2.5 hours in duration and comprises of a theory and practical session. Each course is suitable for up to 15 people. By limiting numbers, we can make sure that the practical session is carried out safely and everyone gets a chance to use the extinguishers.

All attendees are given a comprehensive set of course notes to guide them through the session which they can keep for future reference.

An attendance certificate is provided on completion of the training.

Theory Session

In the theory session use is made of a PowerPoint presentation as well as DVD clips and group exercises to explain fire, its causes and effects as well as human behaviour. The presentation is tailored around the client's evacuation plan which we will discuss with you prior to your training session. This makes the training session specifically yours and gets your staff thinking about your premises and how they interact with it.

Practical Session

In the practical session staff can use water and carbon dioxide extinguishers in a safe and controlled manner. We use an environmentally friendly LPG powered fire rig specifically designed for fire training which produces "real" flames.

Some employers prefer their staff not to use extinguishers and we are happy to provide fire awareness training without a practical session or as a demonstration only. Please speak to our office for more information.

Site Requirements

We supply all necessary equipment and we run most of our courses from our client's premises. To run a safe and effective course we require a suitably sized lecture room and a patch of firm land or area the size of three car parking spaces for the practical session.

Our trainers will approve the space assigned for the practical session and if they deem it unfit for purpose we can still instruct your employees in the use of extinguishers and give them some practical experience but they would not be able to use the extinguishers with the fire rig.

Alternatively, we can train your staff at our head office situated just 10 minutes from junction 7 of the M27.



Summary

We would be pleased to assist you with any fire safety training needs you may have. We pride ourselves in tailoring our packages to client's needs. Over the next page are two typical examples of courses we frequently run, which would be tailored to your company.

Fire Awareness Training

Duration	2 to 3 Hours (dependent on practical inclusion)
Presentation type	Theory with practical optional extra
Aim	Give overall awareness of fire safety in the workplace to employees, an understanding of fire and its effects, what to do in the event of a fire and the theoretical or practical application of portable firefighting equipment.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chemistry of combustion• Fire and its effects (use of DVD)• Employees responsibilities• Escape routes and fire resisting construction• Fire alarms, fire detection, emergency lighting• Fire evacuation procedure (tailored to client's requirements)• Firefighting equipment (theory or theory and practical)• Assessment (optional extra)
Audience	All employees

Fire Warden Training

Duration	Half or Whole Day (dependent on requirements)
Presentation type	Theory with practical optional extra
Aim	To give nominated employees with fire warden responsibilities an understanding of fire and human behaviour in fire situations, together with the practical skills necessary to enable the appropriate action to be taken including an in depth understanding of fire safety measures such as fire alarms, emergency lighting and fire separation. This course aims to provide the staff with a more management minded attitude to fire safety.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicable legislation• Chemistry of combustion• Fire and its effects (use of DVD)• Human behaviour in fires and hazardous situations• Employers and employee's responsibilities• Fire safety design• Fire alarms, fire detection and emergency lighting• Role of the fire warden – fire evacuation procedure (tailored to client's requirements)• Firefighting equipment particular to site (theory or theory and practical)• Assessment (optional extra)
Audience	Staff expected to carry out specific roles during an emergency.

Client Defence

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd is available to provide legally correct, sensible advice and assistance to commercial organisations that are being targeted by enforcement authorities.

The Fire Authority in the area the premises are located is the enforcement authority for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and is able to issue Prohibition, Enforcement and Alteration Notices on workplaces as well as prosecute for failures which would place relevant persons at serious risk.

As the responsible person you have 21 days from date of issue, to appeal against a Notice and Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd are experienced in assisting commercial organisations with these problems.



We can offer independent advice to check if the Notice is legally correct or whether the issues raised are unreasonable.

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd have carried out this role countless times and defended clients all the way to the Crown Court. In each case, we have managed to acquire a far better outcome for the client than had they not been defended. Our basis for this comment is that on many occasions we have managed to get the Fire Authority to retract or alter the Notice and in one case where the client was threatened with action in the Crown Court, the Fire Authority offered a caution instead of proceeding.

Of course, there are occasions when it would be foolish to fight a Fire Authority on an indefensible case. Where this is identified, we will inform the client and advise them on the best course of action. This honest and fair approach, we believe is how clients should be treated.

If you have received correspondence from the Fire Service which is causing you concern, call us immediately on 0845 456 5121 for some immediate free advice.

Customer Testimonials

"We have used Firesafe Solutions as our Fire Risk Assessment Consultants for nearly 13 years. Their systems and procedures have been complimented by many Inspecting Fire Officers over the years, including our Primary Authority Partnership Officer, who they work with us on. They always give practical, commercial solutions to any risks identified. In such an important area of legal compliance I have great confidence that Firesafe Solutions are helping us meet all our Legal and Risk Management duties."

Health and Safety Manager, Mitchells & Butlers Plc

"I find Firesafe Solutions extremely competent, easy to deal with, and good value. The people that work for them are professional, knowledgeable and very helpful, they understand commercial reality, which is important in our industry and business."

Head of Risk Management, Stonegate Group

"I use Firesafe Solutions because you are customer focussed, delivering exactly what we agree in our annual audit plan, as well as being responsive to changes and additions as our business needs change.

I also value the honest, practical advice I receive from your Inspectors."

Health & Safety Manager, Freightliner

"Feedback from the course was very positive, with everyone saying that they liked how knowledgeable you were and used examples to explain your points, thank you"

Risk Manager, Thatcham Research

"Just a quick note to say what a top chap Adrian is. We had a difficult start to the morning but he took it in his stride. Happy to welcome him into any of our locations."

Health & Food Safety Manager, WSH

"We had a visit from the local fire marshal today do a venue audit which has gone well. One of the main things that impressed the guy as the quality of the FRA, he went as far as saying it's the best independent FRA he has seen in any premises."

General Manager of a public house

"I would just like to take this opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to you, Patrick and your team for all the hard work involved in carrying out the inspections and producing the reports for the Countess of Chester Hospital. I have shown your reports to a number of companies, who have quoted us for the remedial works, and they have all commented on how comprehensive and "user friendly" your reports are!"

Fire Safety Advisor, Countess of Chester Hospital

"The practical lesson was brilliant. It can be a shock to use a fire extinguisher for the first time"

"I found the course run by Patrick just right to the level required to be a Fire Warden"

"Would highly recommend, everyone should have this training"

"This could have been a boring study day but the instructor was so keen that it kept me interested. Plus, he remembered everyone's name which kept it personal – thank you!"

Comments from training course attendees

Further Information

Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd is a unique company delivering innovative, cost effective solutions to complex problems.

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Please find below a link to several free downloads that may assist you in the management of fire safety for your premises.

You can access them either by scanning the QR code below or following this link to our website www.firesafesolutions.co.uk/Free-Downloads

Documents you can download include:

- Company Information
- Fire Action Sign
- Fire Safety Log Book
- PEEP
- Generic Fire Policy
- Fire Evacuation Plan

All documents download in PDF format. You can download PDF viewers free from the web. We recommend Adobe Acrobat Reader which is downloadable from www.adobe.com/uk



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