



Risk Based Inspection Programme

Introduction

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service targets its fire protection and business safety activities at those premises that present the greatest risk to the community.

In practice this divides into either of three responses:

- Statistically analysing various data sources, which produces a "Risk Based Inspection Programme" list of premises,
- Immediate reactive,
- Intelligence led dynamic proactive.

Risk Based Inspection Programme

The risk-based inspection programme (RBIP) is part of the WSFRS approach to risk management by prioritising the inspection of premises based upon risk.

The WSFRS RBIP has been defined taking full consideration of the 6 risk groups that the NFCC have identified as part of their Conceptual Risk Framework, these are:

- Individual Life Risk - *The potential for the death or injury of an individual or small group within a single fire compartment. For example - occupants of a flat or house*
- Societal Life Risk - *The potential for the death or injury of multiple individuals or groups in multiple compartments due to the fire not being contained and spreading before individuals can evacuate.*
- Firefighter Risk - *The potential for the death or injury of a firefighter due to the hazardous items or processes contained within a premises, complex layout or where firefighters are unable to use their normal safe systems of work and require an adapted tactical firefighting plan for the premises.*
- Heritage Risk - *The potential for the partial or total loss of items, premises or sites of heritage value through their heritage listing or otherwise historic value.*
- Community Risk - *The potential for a fire to create severe consequences on a local community or economy. This may be linked to public risk, sense of wellbeing, mental health, financial security, loss of critical public services, political and media impact etc. e.g. loss of a school, hospital, major transport hub or major local employer.*
- Environmental Risk - *The potential for a fire or other incident to negatively impact the environment in the immediate or wider vicinity of a premises through the production of environmental hazards or firefighting interventions required to extinguish the fire.*

As a result, WSFRS have defined that the following premises types will feature upon our Risk Based Inspection Programme.

- **Premises classified as “Sleeping – Unfamiliar”, i.e.**
 - Hotels
 - Hostels
 - Guest Houses (premises that are classified as being larger than the average domestic dwelling, i.e. those that are not within the scope of the HM Government Guide “A Guide to Making Your Small Paying-Guest-Accommodation Safe From Fire”)
- **Premises providing sleeping accommodation for those that are particularly vulnerable as a result of age/ disability/ infirmity, i.e.;**
 - Hospitals
 - Residential Care Homes
 - Nursing Homes
 - Specialised Care Homes where there is institutional accommodation for specific needs, such as dementia
 - Specialised Housing (those premises that meet the criteria of the NFCC guidance “Specialised Housing Guide” e.g. Sheltered Housing, Extra Care Housing, Supported Housing)
- **Other Premises**
 - Grade 1 heritage premises;
 - Due to the implications of having a building of national heritage importance damaged by fire, such premises will feature on the RBIP to reduce the risk of fire occurring and reduce the impact should such an incident occur. The inspections of such premises will be drawn from the lists provided online by Historic England. This list will be checked annually by a Protection Support Assistant
 - Premises that have either a Prohibition or Alterations Notice in force;
 - If a PN is in force, then it has already been identified that the premises represents a risk of death or serious injury to its occupants. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the RP is continuing to manage the building effectively and complying with the terms of the Prohibition.
 - If an AN is in force that the FRS have identified that the general fire precautions surrounding aspects such as means of giving warning, and means of escape, are dependent upon the building and its occupancy remaining in line with the restrictions agreed by the FRS. If alteration of occupancy, layout, systems, processes etc have been undertaken without consulting the FRS then the RP has committed an offence, therefore it is appropriate that such premises are subject to regular review as part of the RBIP
 - High Rise Residential;
 - Residential buildings of at least 18m in height, or at least 7 storeys, are subject to more stringent legislative controls (Fire Safety (England) Regs 2022) and will also fall under the jurisdiction of the Building Safety Regulator in October 2023.

The reason for this is that if the building fails in fire, it poses a far greater impact upon a larger number of relevant persons. It is therefore appropriate to periodically inspect these premises. Where the safety in these premises is being managed through "Interim Measures" due to identified failures in their active and passive fire safety systems, we will visit these more frequently.

- Large Public Venues using Detailed Evacuation Strategies/ Regulated Stands; i.e. Sports Grounds.
 - These types of premises rely upon management systems to ensure safe evacuation in case of emergencies, where such will take an extended duration to complete. Due to this reliance, the results of the failure of such detailed evacuation strategies could lead to profound consequences and thus it is considered to periodically inspect these premises.
- Gatwick Airport.
 - As a transport hub of national importance, it is appropriate to ensure that the public that are transiting through this large and complex environment are protected. This will be undertaken through a range of audits that will be conducted quarterly due to the positive working relationship that WSFRS have with the operators of the airport and the on-site fire service.

Immediate Reactive

Immediate reactive responses cover situations where the existence or potential existence of a risk of death or serious injury to people from fire is discovered or reported. Such situations include;

- Following an alleged serious fire safety complaint relating to the fire safety of any premises, which can originate from;
 - Intelligence Exchange
 - Member of the public
 - Employee
 - Operational fire crews, both from an operational incident or during 'fire safety check' activities
 - Other enforcing agencies

All of which will prompt the carrying out of an immediate fire safety audit (FSA).

Intelligence Led Dynamic Risk

Whilst our immediate reactive response deals with positively/ provisionally identified fire risk to people, we also have other means of identifying specific premises or groups of premises that may present such a risk. Our intelligence-based system is designed to capture information from various sources, analyse the data provided, and then assign resources in a flexible and dynamic manner.