DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

FESTIVE FIVE FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

PART 1

PASSIONATE ABOUT
CHANGING & SAVING LIVES

1 Why do I need a fire risk assessment?

- Identifies any fire hazards in your premises.
- Fire prevention - reduces risk of fire.
- Fire protection – what physical fire protection do you have if there is a fire?
- Management process – protect people from fire, emergency planning, training, roles and responsibilities in the event of a fire.
- New Regulations from 1st October 2023 state all non-domestic premises must have a current fire risk assessment.
- If you do not feel confident in completing your fire risk assessment contact a professional fire risk assessor, for more information **Click Here**

2 Identify Fire Hazards

If you identify the fire hazards when completing your fire risk assessment, the chance of experiencing a fire will reduce dramatically.

A fire hazard is anything that can start a fire, such as ignition sources or combustible materials.

Consider electrical equipment, housekeeping, portable heaters, and arson.

- Do you have extra stock for the festive season?

- Have you increased the display area in the shop?
- Do you have flammable decorations or foliage?

Take care not to overload sockets or extension cables, ensure that the electrical equipment or sockets are not faulty, there are no visible scorch marks, cables are not frayed or damaged.

Check there is sufficient ventilation around the electrical items and sockets.

Check there are no trailing extension cables that can cause trips and falls.

Ensure halogen lamps or any display lighting is not too close to other potential flammable products.

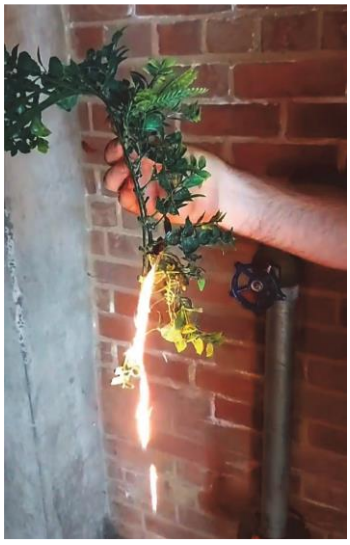
Ensure LPG canisters are stored correctly.

Anything that is combustible is fuel for a fire. Check for products that have the potential to catch fire and spread easily and quickly to other combustible products, make sure they are stored safely away from ignition sources. Some cleaning products, photocopier chemicals, paints, varnishes and adhesives will also need to be stored securely and safely.

Clear unwanted packaging materials frequently, stationery and decorations should be kept to a minimum.

Artificial foliage is now a popular and fashionable method for decorating the interiors of many premises. When ignited, this material will rapidly cause the development and spread of fire. This may stop people from making a safe escape.

The picture below shows how the material burns when exposed to flame, this was also sprayed with fire retardant spray; the material melts and droplets fall from above (potentially on to people trying to escape).



Tinsel and other flammable decorations have similar burning patterns.

Take care when you are decorating your premises or having a “grotto” be aware of the fire hazards and keep any ignition sources clear of the area.

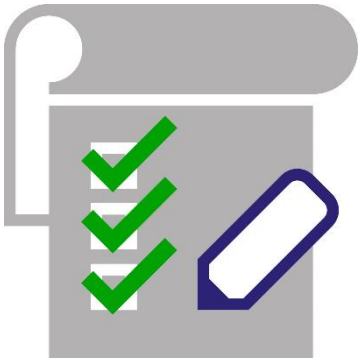
Some Chemicals (Oxidising materials) provide additional oxygen when they burn and will assist the fire to spread.

These chemicals should be identified on their container. For example –

Pyrotechnics (fireworks) which contain oxidising materials need to be stored in a secure safe container.

Care must be taken when using oxygen supplied by cylinders during hot welding processes.

Checklist



- ✓ Have you identified all potential ignition sources?
- ✓ Have you identified all fuel sources?
- ✓ Have you identified any sources of oxygen?
- ✓ Have you recorded all your findings?

For further information Click Here

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service supports local businesses and recognises their importance to the community. We are committed to keeping people and buildings safe.