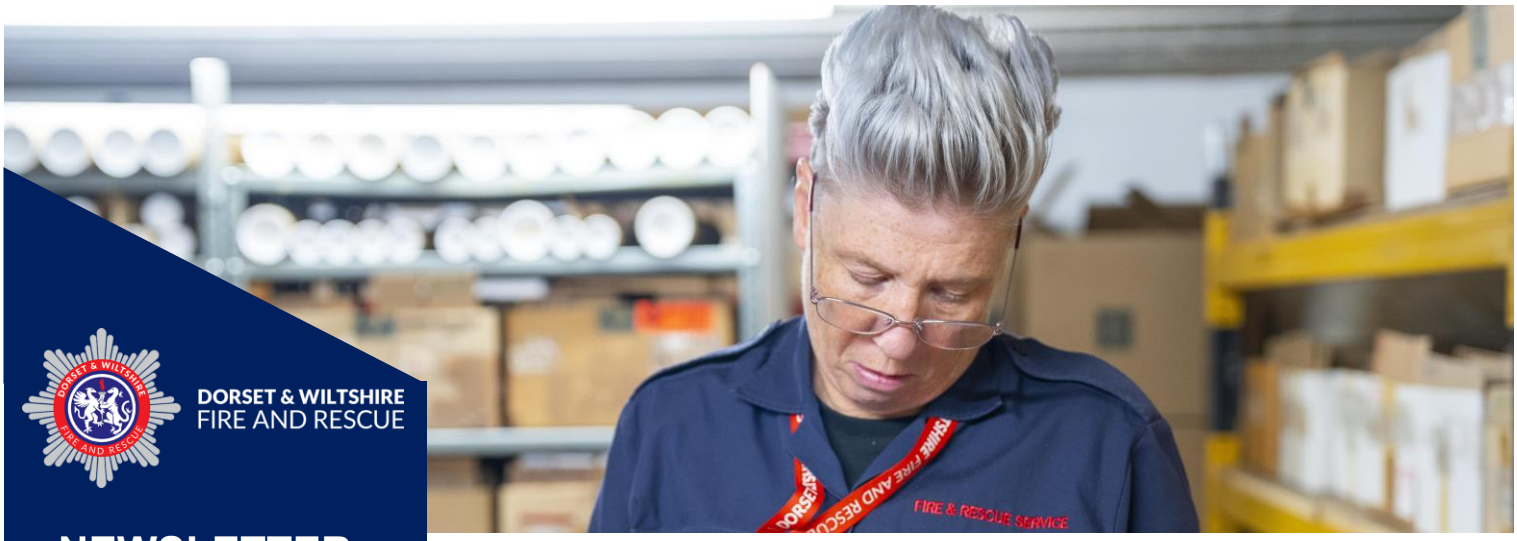


DORSET & WILTSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 - March 2026

WELCOME

Welcome to the Business Fire Safety newsletter. Here, we'll keep you up to date on new legislation, as well as provide hints and tips on how to keep your business in tip-top fire safety shape.

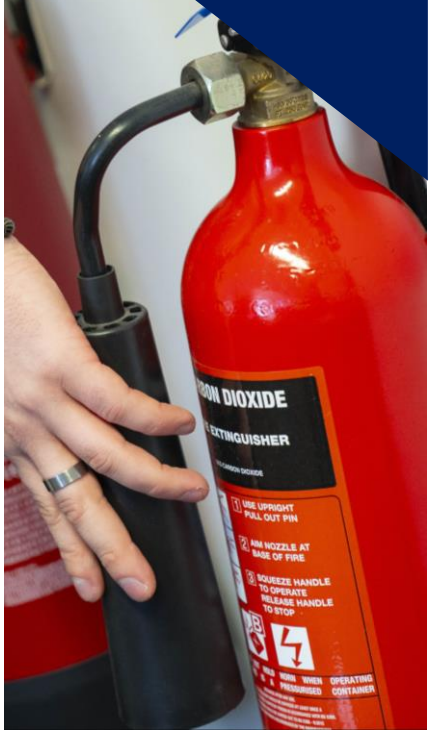
As Spring approaches and we look forward to more time outside, it's important not to overlook the need to maintain effective fire safety management and up-to-date business contingency plans.

See our spring checklist below to get you started:

- Review your fire risk assessment.
- Remove any combustible materials (cardboard, paper, packaging) from storerooms and exits.
- Check all fire escapes are unlocked, free of obstruction, and easily accessible with clear exit signs.
- Check your fire extinguishers, alarms and emergency lighting.

Did you know? We run free fire safety webinars!

Click here to sign up.





SPRING ROUNDUP

In this issue we will cover the following topics:

- Why should we make a Business Continuity Plan? (Page 2)
- What are Residential Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (RPeeps)? (Page 2)
- Fire safety in Care Homes. (Page 2)
- Licensed premises – Know your responsibilities! (Page 3)

WHY SHOULD WE MAKE A BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN?

If the worst was to happen, would your business continue to function, or would it simply stop?

By having a Business Continuity Plan in place, your business can avoid costly disruptions and potential catastrophes. In fact, statistics show that businesses are more likely to close within a year, if they suffer a major data loss or physical disaster without one.

Take a look at our full information here.





WHAT ARE RESIDENTIAL PERSONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS (RPEEPS)?

Following the Grenfell inquiry, new regulations take effect on 6 April 2026 to help improve fire safety for disabled and vulnerable people in higher risk residential buildings such as high-rise properties.

Through the Fire Safety (Residential Evacuation Plans) (England) Regulations 2025, residents with disabilities and impairments will be entitled to:

- A person-centred fire risk assessment to consider their specific individual risks and ability to evacuate in the event of a fire.
- Measures that could reasonably and proportionately be introduced to mitigate against their risks.
- A written statement recording what they should do in a fire.
- Information shared with their local Fire and Rescue Service so they know where the most vulnerable residents live, and can support their evacuation or rescue in the event of a fire.

To find out more information, visit the government website here.

FIRE SAFETY IN CARE HOMES

The Business Support Team, alongside the Protection team for Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, are excited to announce a care home seminar later this year.

Open to everyone, it will include practical case studies, fire safety guidance and a guest speaker from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). We have limited spaces available, so please sign-up soon to avoid missing out. See available dates below:

- 15 September – DWFRS Support Offices, Peverell Avenue West, Dorchester
- 22 September – DWFRS HQ, Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Hulse Road, Salisbury



LICENSED PREMISES – KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

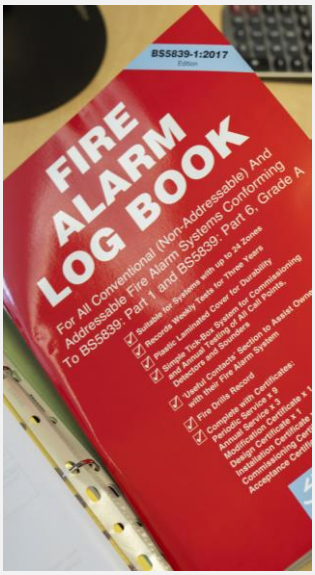
If you own a licensed premises, it's important to understand what you need to do to ensure the safety of your premises, staff, and customers. Make sure:

- You regularly review your fire risk assessment, including updating it as necessary.
- You avoid using indoor pyrotechnics unless approved and managed with correct control measures in place. If you do use them, ensure they are purchased from licensed retailers and have the correct CE or UKCA conformity markings.
- Staff training and emergency plans are up to date.
- If your premises has a chimney, it's maintained regularly and documented as part of your fire risk assessment with any works certified.
- Any drapes, materials or soundproof foam in your premises have the correct fire resistance, are included in your fire risk assessment and have all relevant certifications documented.



NEW WEBINAR COMING SOON - Preserving the Past, Protecting Lives – For Heritage and Historic Buildings

Find out more in the next issue.



FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT TIPS

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires fire precautions to be put in place 'where necessary' and to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances. Here are 5 steps to carrying out your assessment:

- Identify the hazards.
- Identify people at risk.
- Evaluate, remove or reduce the risks.
- Record your findings, prepare an emergency plan and provide training.
- Review and update the fire risk assessment regularly.

USEFUL LINKS

Risk assessment guidance
Fire safety and the law
Building regulations
Events and celebrations

If you do not wish to be contacted with the newsletter in the future, please email businessfiresafety@dwfire.org.uk.

Check out our socials below:

www.dwfire.org.uk