



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

Fire Safety – Are you Compliant!

**A personal overview of incidents, attitudes and oversights
since the coming into force of the RRFSO 2005**

Philip John Spurgin MIFireE CMIOSH MIIRSM SpDipEM





SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

- The Reasoning behind the RRFSO 2005.
- General Oversights.
- The Grey Areas (Misinterpretation).
- Fire Risk Assessments “On the Cheap”.
- The Competent Fire Advisor/Manager.
- Box Ticking Exercises.
- A Final Thought.

The Reasoning behind the Order.

Simplification of Health and Safety/Fire Safety Legislation under The Regulatory Reform Act 2001.

“Ownership” and Responsibility for Health and Safety.

The Demise of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the Fire Precautions (workplace) Regulations 1992.

The expected Robust Fire Safety Management System would include:

- An Identified Responsibility for Fire Safety at Board Level.
- An identified Responsible Person.
- Responsibility for each premises (site manager).
- Arrangements for appointing people to carry out specific roles in the event of a Fire.
- Defined in Writing – Organisational Chart.
- Consultation with Employees.

- Identification of Fire Hazards and Risks. **FRA**
- Appointment of one or more competent people to assist.
- A Plan of Prioritised Actions, detailing Control Measures.
- Fire Prevention/Protection Measures.
- Procedures for Fighting the Fire.
- Identify people with Specific Fire Duties.
- Details of any Dangerous Substances.
- Detailed Fire Emergency Evacuation Plan.

- Written Instructions to Staff.
- Co - operation and Co – ordination between Occupiers.
- Fire Safety Training.
- Fire Drills.
- Monitoring of Systems.
- Fire Safety Record Systems .
- System for providing information to Employees, Contractors and Others.
- On – going regular Audits, Monitoring of SMS and Reviews.



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

Unfortunately In Some Cases the Fire Safety Management System in some companies looks like this:



General oversights

- Lack of Acknowledgement.
- Lack of Commitment from the top.
- Insufficient Finance, Time and Resources.
- Inconsistency in, or non existence of FRA's.
- No Action taken on FRA Action Points.
- The lack of competency amongst persons given Fire Risk Management responsibilities.



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

Grey Areas (Misinterpretation)

Who Does the RRFSO 2005 Include?:

Real World Scenarios (what we've heard):-

Under 5 Employees: "It doesn't affect us!!"

We are "Volunteers" therefore we are not technically "employees!!"

Our Caretaker has the title of Responsible Person at the school, Does that make him the Fire Safety Manager now!!"

We know where the Fire Extinguishers are thank you, so "we are not interested"!!



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

We Haven't had a Fire here for the 40 years that we've been operating here, Why is it now an issue!!
(A major Energy Supplier Senior Manager following a FRA)

Fire Risk Assessments “on the Cheap”

True Examples:

The School (£200 FRA which resulted in Enforcement Action).

The Mate. (A one day Health and Safety Course and this person is carrying out Complex Risk FRA's).

The Concorde Pilot! (No H&S or Fire qualifications, but this major Company thought that being a Concorde Pilot (once) was a sufficient competency to hold a Senior H&S Position (Director Level)).

The Competent Fire Advisor/Manager

Knowledge.

Experience.

Training.

Memberships and Registration.

On going CPD.

Understanding (and respecting) your Limitations.

Box Ticking Exercises

*Those Clients that only appear interested in Fire Safety
When:*

1. The “Quality Assessment” ISO is due.
2. Health, Safety and Fire Safety Questions are required for the “Contract” tender document.
3. The “Safe Contractor Award”. (See no 2 above).
4. The “Visit” After the NOD. (notice of Deficiency)



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

A Final Thought





Lakanal House Camberwell.

Buncefield.

BP Grangemouth.

London Transport (Kings Cross).

The Royal Marsden Hospital.

Flixborough.

Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The Channel Tunnel.

Piper Alpha.

Fire Service College Moreton in Marsh.

Were all of the Fires discussed in the previous slide avoidable!

Could Systems have been put in place to “reduce” the effects of the Fires!

If we don't think the unthinkable, we cannot possibly identify suitable and sufficient (reasonable) systems, to put in place so as to reduce the effects of fires on both people and properties.

Fire IS NOT Something that happens to other people.

Remember: Fail to Prepare - Prepare to Fail



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

Any Questions?



SAFETY CONSULTANCY SERVICES
CHARTERED SAFETY PRACTITIONERS

Thank You For Listening

Philip John Spurgin MIFireE CMIOSH MIIRSM SpDipEM



www.safetyconsultancyservices.com
scs.co@tiscali.co.uk

Tel: 01797 260809

