

10 June 2015



# **THE ALICE CROSS CENTRE**

## **FIRE POLICY**

Version 1

## Policy Statement

The issue of Fire Safety is taken extremely seriously and we will strive to ensure the Company and its employees comply with the Regulatory reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

More importantly we will strive to ensure the safety of all persons who have a legitimate right to be in, on or in the vicinity of the premises from fire and its effects.

These include staff, volunteers, users, hirers and contractors but exclude fire fighters in pursuance of fire fighting.

The Centre has a no smoking policy, and there is a designated place at the front of the building with cigarette butt bin provided.

Staff should be aware it is a criminal offence not to consider theirs and others fire safety whilst at work and breaches will be dealt with in a robust manner by management.

## ***The Responsible Person***

The responsible person retains overall responsibility for policy and management of fire safety and under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 designated as the "Responsible Person".

The Responsible Person has delegated the following roles:

	Task	Position or name
1.	Ensuring all exits are available and useable during time people are in the premises (recommended daily)	
2.	Fire fighting equipment is in place and undamaged (recommended weekly)	
3.	Staff have received induction training	
4.	The daily check of the fire alarm panel	
5.	The weekly test of the fire alarm	
6.	The monthly test of the emergency lighting	
7.	Completion of the Fire Risk Assessment	
8.	Ensuring the fire alarm, emergency lighting and fire fighting equipment (and other fire safety measures if found) is serviced by a competent person	
9.	Ensuring appropriate cleaning of kitchen extract ducts where appropriate	
10.	Ensuring portable electrical appliances are maintained as required (PAT)	
11.	Ensuring fixed electrics are inspected at least once every five years	
12.	Completion of refresher training	
13.	Completion of an annual fire evacuation drill	

**All staff**

All staff has a responsibility for their own and others fire safety. They should report any possible dangerous issues to the Centre Manager for action.

Staff are forbidden from carrying out actions that could compromise their or others fire safety and where staff are found to carry out such actions they may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

**Fire Strategy**

The fire strategy is to ensure there is a suitable means of alerting all persons who have a legitimate right to be in the premises to a fire in the early stages and provide sufficient number of exits to allow the safe evacuation to a place of ultimate safety.

The evacuation procedure is for all persons to evacuate immediately.

The type, number and level of fire safety measures will be decided by Fire Risk Assessment carried out by a competent person.

Whilst management accepts there is a legal duty to ensure there is some persons trained in the use of fire fighting equipment they do not encourage the fighting of fires by staff and actively discourages the fighting of fires by any users unless they have received training.

Staff will receive fire safety training but their overriding responsibility is to sound an alarm and initiate an evacuation of the immediate area.

The centres fire strategy concentrates on life safety and not property protection. Document produced by Firesafe Solutions (UK) Ltd Page 6 of 12 Fire Policy

**Fire Risk Assessment (FRA)**

The centre will employ a competent person to assist them with their duties under Article 18 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The centre will use the following documents as their source of all information:-

- The Health and Safety Executive Safety Checks
- The Health and Safety Executive Means of Escape.

The fire risk assessment ( FRA ) that will be used is the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services Risk Assessment Document which can be found in the Fire Folder in the Mangers Office.

A fire risk assessment will be completed for each work area. The FRA will be reviewed annually or when there is a major change in circumstance to the premises.

The assessment will provide a list of Significant Findings These are items that are likely to present an unacceptable risk to people and will specify: what the problem is, what existing control measures are in place and what additional measures should be instigated.

Any Significant Finding will be prioritised as High, Medium, and Low or as a Note. High, Medium and Low are an identification of the risk the hazard presents to relevant people. The Company will use this system as a way of prioritising the work to complete it.

Where a Significant Finding is stated as a Note, there is unlikely to be any additional control measure. The Note is a way of informing the reader that an issue has been identified but due to the existing control measures requires no further attention.

## **Testing and Maintenance**

### ***Fire Alarm and Detection***

The level of coverage will be set by the FRA and serviced in accordance with the relevant British Standard (BS5839 Pt 1: 2013) by a competent person.

The alarm will be inspected daily by staff to ensure it is showing a healthy supply (green light on panel).

The call points will be tested weekly by using a test key to operate a different call point each week on a rolling program. Records of the tests will be maintained on site for inspection by company personnel, fire risk assessors and enforcement officers.

The smoke alarm and detection panel will be tested annually by an accredited alarm systems company.

### ***Electrical and Portable Electrical Equipment***

The portable electrical equipment within the building work areas will be tested annually to ensure it is fit for purpose and in a safe condition. The company will have equipment tested in accordance with HSE guidance. Records of tests will be held to be able to show due diligence.

Hall hirers/users must provide certification (PAT) as appropriate for equipment brought into the building

The electrical installation for the building will be tested in accordance with regulations every 5 years (insulation)

Emergency lighting/exit signs will be tested on a monthly basis

### ***Portable Fire Fighting Equipment***

The portable fire fighting equipment will be inspected to ensure the equipment appears in good condition, all extinguishers have a safety pin and plastic tag fitted and all equipment is in its appropriate position.

The equipment will be serviced annually by a firm of competent engineers in accordance with the manufactures instructions and the BS 5306 Pt 3.

### ***Means of Escape***

The designated on-site staff will check daily that all corridors and stairs are kept clear of obstructions and combustible material.

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### ***Records of Testing & Maintenance***

Management to ensure accurate and true records associated with testing and maintenance of fire safety measures as well as staff training and evacuation drills.

Records must be kept on site and except for staff training in a single file with the following information:

Date of test

Item tested

Result of test

Action taken

Person completing test

In the case of staff training records they should be retained on site for the period the employee is working on site. The records should be kept confidential but may be shown to enforcing authorities for the purpose of showing due diligence to legislation.

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### **Staff Training**

All staff will be given induction training when employed; this will take place on their first day of employment and will encompass:

- Action to take on discovering a fire or hearing the alarm
- Use of fire fighting equipment
- Location of exits
- Assembly points

Where necessary, nominated key staff will receive additional annual training providing detailed knowledge on the installed fire safety measures and use of fire fighting equipment.

Staff will sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the training.

Continuation training should be completed annually. All staff are to sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the training.

### **Evacuation Drills**

It is anticipated this will take place whilst there are visitors/users in the centre. The drill should take place at least annually. All staff should sign the Instruction and Training record to show they have completed the drill.

### **Policy on Fire Fighting**

Staff who have been trained in the use of portable fire fighting equipment may attempt to fight an uncontrolled fire where they feel confident it can be dealt with safely however they must not do this where they would put themselves or others at risk of harm from the fire or its effects.

Visitors/users are actively discouraged from fighting fire unless they have received specific training.

Any such fire fighting is carried out at their own risk.

Sufficient fire fighting equipment will be provided in the premises for the purpose of immediate first aid fire fighting. The level of equipment provided will be decided by the fire risk assessment or other competent persons.

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### **Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's)**

All staff/users/volunteers especially those known to have a disability will have a PEEP completed on them.

The purpose of the PEEP is to ensure the person is provided with a means of being alerted to a fire emergency and a safe means of escape taking into account their disability or illness.

The PEEP should not disadvantage the employee in their job role but ultimately the purpose of the PEEP is to ensure the safety of the employee and if no reasonable solution can be found to

ensuring the safety of the person a restriction in their location within or on the premises may have to be considered.

When completing a PEEP the Manager should speak to the person involved to discuss:

What fire safety issues present problems?

How serious are the problems?

How can they be overcome?

All PEEP forms will be kept in the fire folder in the general office and all staff and volunteers must read each one on a monthly basis.

Where it is recognized a user has a disability that may affect their escape from the building the Responsible Person should consider discussing with them how they can be assisted

**Contractors on Site**

Any contractors invited to site to carry out authorised repairs must provide onsite management with a method statement stating how the work is to be safely completed. This must include a section on fire safety.

Any contractor invited on site to complete “hot work” (work that could use open flame or heat producing equipment high enough to cause ignition to flammable material) must produce a risk assessment stating how the equipment is to be used and what precautions will be put into place to reduce the risk and deal with a fire.

All such contractors must bring their own fire fighting equipment onsite suitable for the hazard they are introducing as specified in their risk assessment.

All such fire fighting equipment must be in service (within one year). When the contractors have set up to work, onsite management must carry out an inspection and satisfy themselves they are working safely and to their risk assessment/method statement.

Onsite management has the right to stop any contractor from working in or on the premises where they feel there is an unacceptable risk to the contractors, staff and/or visitors.

Signed.....Chair of Trustees      Date: