

## What happens if I don't do a fire risk assessment?

You are breaking the law and you could be putting people's lives at risk. We may inspect your premises as part of our responsibility to enforce the law, or a customer or someone working for you may report you to us if they feel at risk. If we think you need to improve your fire safety, we can give you advice on what measures may be appropriate for you to take and agree a time period for you to make the improvements. We can also take formal legal enforcement action if you fail to do this, or if we find a serious fire risk that you are not managing we can prohibit the use of part or all of your premises and your business may be closed down. If you live on the premises you may have to find somewhere else to stay. Since the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 we have prohibited the use of over 30 takeaway and restaurant premises because they were so unsafe. You may also face a hefty fine and/or imprisonment for breaches of fire safety law.

## Headlines • Headlines • Headlines • Headlines

A Chester restaurant has been fined more than £24,000 for fire safety breaches. The company that operates the business was ordered by Chester Magistrates Court to pay a total of £24,067 in fines and court costs. This related to six serious breaches of the Fire Safety Order.

Keith Brooks, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Head of Community Fire Protection said: "This was an extremely serious case of a business putting the lives of their staff at considerable risk from fire. Staff sleeping in a workplace must be able to escape safely in the event of a fire".

"We are determined to protect the lives of those living and working across Cheshire and so we will continue to take action when businesses, large or small, do not take their fire safety responsibilities seriously".

For **FREE** practical fire safety advice or information visit the Business Safety section on our website or contact your local **Prevention and Protection team**:

Cheshire East  
01270 213 246

Cheshire West & Chester  
01244 322 222

Warrington & Halton  
01925 634 593



Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service  
Headquarters  
Winsford, Cheshire  
CW7 2FQ

t: 01606 868700  
f: 01606 868712  
[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)



**DO YOU** own a restaurant, fast food outlet or takeaway?

**DO YOU,** your family or employees sleep at the premises?

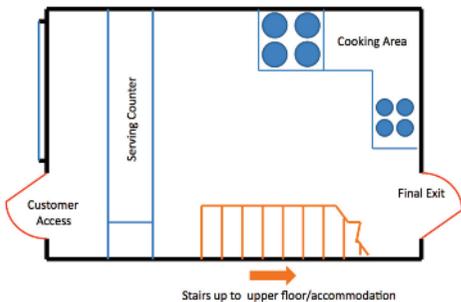
**IF SO,** fire safety law applies to you and you must take action.

[www.cheshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk)



There have been a number of recent fires in Cheshire in businesses such as fast food outlets, takeaways, cafes and restaurants where upper floors are being used for sleeping accommodation. These fires often result in significant financial loss, with a high risk of injury and even death. It is particularly important to consider and put in place the right fire safety arrangements to protect not only the lives of you, your family, employees and customers, but also your property and your business.

In many cases it has come to light that people are sleeping in rooms and or flats above businesses, often accessed by a single unprotected staircase from the main public or kitchen area of the building, like this one:



Often these exit routes are blocked with combustible materials. Experience has shown that people living on upper floors find it difficult to evacuate quickly and safely in an emergency unless a safe exit route is available.

## Reducing the Dangers

- ✓ fit an alarm to provide early warning of fire throughout the building
- ✓ keep escape routes clear from combustible material and other obstructions
- ✓ never wedge open fire doors or remove door closing devices (a fire door can only protect you if it is kept closed)
- ✓ protect/separate staircases with fire resisting construction to ensure your exit route is safe

### Make sure your family and employees know how to:

get out of the building in the event of fire



and

call the fire and rescue service



## What must I do?

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 – makes you responsible for taking steps to protect the people using your premises from the risk of fire.

### You must:

- Carry out a fire risk assessment
- If necessary, improve your fire safety measures
- Keep the risks, and your fire safety measures under review



## What is a fire risk assessment?

It is a thorough look at your premises and the people who are likely to use them. It considers the risk of fire breaking out and what measures you need to put in place to prevent it and keep people safe.



## Follow the 5 key steps

### STEP 1

Identify fire hazards

### STEP 2

Identify people at risk

### STEP 3

Evaluate remove or reduce and protect from risk

### STEP 4

Record, plan, inform, instruct and train

### STEP 5

Review your fire risk assessment regularly