



SOLUTIONS ON FIRE

Issue 7, August 2010

Hi there and welcome to Solutions Fire Safety August Newsletter. This month we're talking about fire safety training and what you need to do to ensure that your organisation complies with RRO requirements. We have also launched our new website at www.solutionsfire.co.uk, so check it out and let us know what you think. There are some useful links and resources for standards and regulations. Enjoy, Kind Regards, Solutions.

Are you the Responsible Person?

Training for the Responsible Person should be and is important to be given in order to familiarise themselves with the responsibilities that have been placed on them. Training should cover:

- Fire safety management
- Fire risk assessment
- Managing your signs and communication
- Maintenance
- Staff Training
- Evacuation and procedures
- Your file of evidence

Although you may believe us to be a little biased towards our training I can only tell you what I honestly believe. Because of the extensive range of knowledge and experience our presenter has, you will only be in good hands. He will surprise you with stories from his fire fighting days and shock you with findings in organisations that will ring bells with us all. For further information on how we can help you as the Responsible Person, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Solutions Fire Safety Training

Free Fire Safety Management Workshop
- Friday 24th September 2010
- Friday 22nd October 2010

2 Day Responsible Person Training
- Mon & Tue 13th/14th September 2010
- Wed & Thurs 6th/7th October 2010

Fire Warden Training
- Monday 27th September 2010
- Monday 18th October 2010

All of our training courses have been accredited as providing excellent information and at a fantastic value. We aim to create a safer workplace for all. Contact us for further info.

In this news this month:

- > A landlord has been fined £6000 for breaching fire safety regulations
- > Fire in Romanian maternity hospital kills newborn babies
- > New social housing flats built using a central timber frame are a big fire risk
- > Watch video of extravagant 'fire tornado' in Brazil
- > A landlord is prosecuted under housing law for inadequate fire safety
- > Dispute over whether alarms were working in London Underground fire

Understanding Your Fire Safety Training Requirements

As a compulsory requirement of the regulatory reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO), staff training is often considered a burden on an organisation and can therefore be a weakness within the workforce. More often than not, a workplace fire is caused by employer or employee actions whether through carelessness or lack of knowledge. A little information in the form of fire safety training can go a long way.

Legislation

The RRO might arguably be vague in its assertion of what is required from the organisation in terms of fire safety training. Words such as 'adequate', 'suitable' and 'sufficient' are common within the Order and open to wide interpretation. A wise course of action then is to establish what is specifically required for the individual organisation according to the Order. A useful resource may be found in the British Standard BS9999: 2008.

Responsibility

The party responsible for deciding what actions are needed is known as the "Responsible Person". This is typically the manager, owner or operator. Training is one aspect of the responsible persons duties and whilst it might appear simple here, the process of breaking down problems and providing solutions to their component parts can be a complicated process. Yet there is a simple answer, training. As the manager of a site, responsibility is often delegated by default, as those are the people who are deemed to be in control. In this instance, The Fire Safety (Employees' Capabilities) (England) Regulations 2010 might be said to suggest that training for the Responsible Person role is essential.

All that remains is to find a suitable course and provider. For full story click here

Here's how it all went wrong...£150,000 later

Last year a huge retail store in Oxford Street, London suffered at the hands of a fire. Luckily no one in the store was injured but unfortunately this was due more to luck than judgement. After an inspection of the premises and fire safety arrangements it was noted that levels of staff training for fire safety were woefully inadequate. Staff failed to act when the fire alarm sounded, the alarm was even turned it off so customers could continue shopping. The alarm triggered again and staff still failed to react. It was only when passers by shouted warnings that panic set in and the call to get out went up. The fine incurred was £400,000. £150,000 of this was due to the fact that staff received inadequate training.