

# Solutions on Fire

## Asbestos roof breaks out into fire at Calorex building in Essex

The fire which happened at around 9am on Thursday 18th February at the Calorex warehouse, destroyed the building and forced 200 residents and workers living within a 200 meter proximity to leave the area. Maldon District Council helped shelter the evacuees but some still had to stay in a bed and breakfast. The blaze started from asbestos within the roof and there were further fears due to a possibility that 10 acetylene cylinder could explode. To read the full story, [click here](#)



Picture supplied by Maldon standard.  
Calorex warehouse

## The Guardian exposes that 90% of UK's universities are at serious risk

After a lengthy legal battle the Higher Education Funding Council were forced to hand over the information to the Guardian that would prove that our university buildings are at serious risk of major failure and breakdown. The case which ruled in The Guardian's favour, agreeing that it was in the public interest, has revealed the poor state of the buildings. One of our most popular universities, London School of Economics is deemed unsuitable for current use as the lecture theatres and classrooms are below par. To read the full story visit [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

## Check your fireplaces this winter!

Britain's cold winters are something we are all aware of and homeowners are enjoying the comfort of their open fireplaces indoors. Obviously we do not want to lose this warm luxury but we are being warned to monitor our chimneys to decrease the amount of incidents caused by open fires.

Simply have your chimney checked yearly, swept and protect yourself and belongings with a fireguard.

For more information on how to maintain your open fireplace visit [www.ehow.co.uk](http://www.ehow.co.uk)



## Let's discuss mist systems...

Mist systems are currently a subject of debate and are slowly creeping into the fire protection industry to reduce the impact and spread of a fire. As of yet, mist systems are not compliant with British Standards but is seen as an emerging technology and has proved to be of great advantage in certain situations.

The positive aspects of mist are its ability to cool down the temperature without using too much water or pressure, thus reducing water damage. It also limits damage within electrical machinery and can decrease the spread by reducing oxygen levels.



Picture supplied by SE Fire Sprinklers Ltd

For example if a fire occurred within an electronic machine, the mist system, which would activate automatically on a heat sensitive response, would be able to tackle the fire within the machine without damaging the machine itself. It is also non toxic as water is normally the only ingredient that is sprayed out.

Mist systems have been approved for use on board ships and in prison cells. Approval for industrial, commercial and residential environments have yet to be given. The system can form a useful part of a fire suppressing system but should not yet be considered in isolation or as a replacement for any other product. For more information [click here](#).

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Good Morning and Welcome to Solutions Fire Safety monthly newsletter, the new resource for safety management. I am hoping to inform and enlighten you with news, products and legislation regarding fire safety. We must be aware of the danger of fire and the damage it can cause, which is why we're here to make things a little easier for you. I look forward to any comments or questions you may have.  
Kind Regards, Katrina Papas

A pub management company that is 'well versed in all aspects of the licensed trade' was fined £15,000 plus costs after pleading guilty to four breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO).

[Read more...](#)

Two landlords have been fined £8000 each after Devon & Somerset Fire Service noted that there were serious concerns of public safety within their buildings. For full story [click here](#)

Since the Order came into force there has been a slow rise in prosecutions where the local brigades have really started to exercise their powers. To understand how to carry out the correct procedure for a risk assessment call us on 08456012632

## Premises Information Box

The premises information box is a secure box where you can put all your fire safety related records and assessments in one easy place. It provides fast and immediate access for the fire service if a fire were to occur in your building. It allows them to assess the situation and predict the best route for controlling the fire as all building hazards and risks vary. This box stores your plans and up to date information whilst being kept safe behind a high security lock mechanism on the wall.



## Arson attacks

Statistics by the Arson Prevention Bureau give us some terrifying news on arson attacks in England.

Per week :

- There are 2,213 arson attacks

- 2 people killed and 53 injured

- 20 schools, 262 homes, 360 business & 1402 cars are burnt...and to top it all off this costs us £53.8 million each week!

- This month a hotel fire that caused damages between £500,00 to £700,00 estimated by investigators is being treated as an arson attack .

- An arson attack on a plastics factory in Suffolk took two hours and 50 fire-fighters to bring the fire under control.

- A man was accidentally killed when the garage he was sleeping in was set alight by arsonists. The two cases were not linked

- On a happier note West Yorkshires arson attacks have decreased rapidly over the past 8 years by 75% after services pin pointed the issue

To read more on any of these stories visit

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## Care home at fault for wrong risk assessment



Picture acknowledged by The Herald Scotland

A fire risk assessment at a care home that took place one year before a fire broke out in a cupboard in January 2004, uncovered the risk

aspects that were not recorded by the assessor and which could have saved the 14 residents, all aged between 75 and 98, that died.

The risk assessor was employed by the owners of the care home to carry out a fire risk assessment on the building and offer recommendations for improvements on Health and Safety. He failed to include key findings in his assessment of fire hazards within the building. Most importantly failing to list residents as people who might be at risk in the event of fire, only including staff and visitors. 'You must consider all the people who use the premises...pay particular attention to people who may be especially at risk, people asleep...people with disabilities' a reference from the HM Government sleeping accommodation guide. All the residents within the care home were either elderly, terminally ill, elderly with mild mental illness or young physically disabled who should have been a priority in accordance with fire risk. A lack of staff fire training also failed to be recorded and it was not noted that the fire doors to residents bedrooms were propped open throughout the night and safety catches disabled. A risk assessment, which does not address all risks in and outside the building, is not a sufficient and suitable fire risk assessment.

The 'Responsible Person' at the time was not aware of her role within Health and Safety. The Regulatory Reform Order 2005 'requires a Responsible Person to be nominated to ensure that your organisation conforms to the requirements of the Order' yet

she was not aware of her specific role within the organisation and therefore the Health and Safety was not to par. Ten of the fourteen residents who died were in their bedroom where they were overcome by smoke entering through the doors. Their deaths could have been prevented by a mere check on the doors, ensuring that fire doors were closed at all times, as they should be!

The Crown Office is currently investigating the case only two days after the third prosecution against the owners failed and the Fatal Accident Inquiry is trying to establish the full circumstances of the tragedy, preventing a similar fire.

To read the full story visit [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) and for responsible person training for your company visit [solutionsfiresafety.co.uk](http://solutionsfiresafety.co.uk).

## Log Book?

A fire safety log book is prepared to assist the 'Responsible Person' in co-ordinating and maintaining a fire safety record keeping system. It will guide the 'Responsible Person' in what to record and assess during your fire risk assessment.

Available on our website [www.solutionsfiresafety.co.uk](http://www.solutionsfiresafety.co.uk) is a list of all things that must be included within your log book.



## Exhibition centre uses new fire alarm system

London's ExCel has been fitted with an Ateis voice address system which will transmit emergency messages from the fireman's microphone. In case of emergency in the huge centre, the evacuation process and announcements will be heard throughout the building.

[Read more...](#)

**EXCEL**  
**LONDON**

The international exhibition and conference centre

## Solutions Training Dates

Half Day Free Fire Safety Management Workshop: 19th March, 15th April and 17th May

2 day Responsible Person course: 24th & 25th March, 28th & 29th April, 18th and 19th May

Half Day Fire Warden Training: 12th April, May 11th and June 24th

Contact [Katrina Papas](#)

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