



# R B F & R S

## news release

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### **RBFRS REMINDS BUSINESSES OF FIRE SAFETY LAW**

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is reminding business owners and managers of their fire safety responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order came into force in October 2006 and placed responsibility for complying with the Order with a nominated 'responsible person'. In the workplace, this is the employer or any other person who has control of any part of the premises, such as the occupier or owner. In other premises, the person, or people, in control of the premises will be responsible. Fire certificates have been abolished and no longer have any legal status.

The nominated responsible person has to carry out a detailed fire risk assessment for their premises, paying particular attention to those at special risk, such as people with disabilities or special needs. Those employing five or more people must keep a record of the significant findings of the assessment.

The Order applies to virtually all premises and covers nearly every type of building, structure and open space, including:

- Offices and shops
- Premises that provide care, including care homes and hospitals
- Community halls, places of worship and other community premises
- The shared areas of properties several households live in (housing laws may also apply)
- Pubs, clubs and restaurants
- Schools and sports centres
- Tents and marquees
- Hotels and hostels
- Factories and warehouses

It does not apply to people's private homes, including individual flats in a block or house.

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For more information on the legislation, log on to [www.fire.gov.uk/Workplace+safety](http://www.fire.gov.uk/Workplace+safety) or you can access it via RBFRS' website: [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk).

RBFRS can also fire safety guidance for business owners and managers. Contact your local fire safety office for more information:

**Reading**                    **0118 932 2744**

**Newbury**                **01635 48 112**

**Maidenhead**        **01628 771 222**

**Slough**                 **01753 547 997**

**ENDS.**