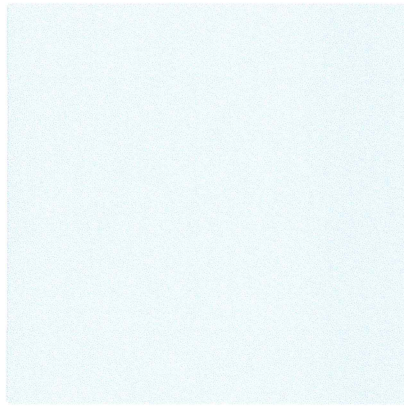
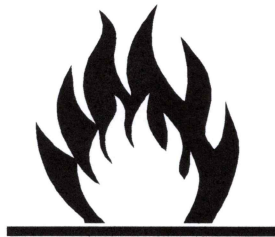




Location: Westwood Parish Church



# **FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT**



## Introduction

This form is designed to assist you to complete a Fire Risk Assessment for your church.

- A risk is defined as "the potential for a fire to occur (likelihood) and cause injury, death, or damage (impact).

A Fire Risk Assessment is a methodical review of your church premises, the activities carried on there and the likelihood that a fire could start and cause harm to those in and around the premises.

The requirements relating to general fire safety are covered by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, supported by the Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006. If you have responsibility for your buildings through having control of them you are required to undertake a fire safety risk assessment. It shares the same approach as health and safety risk assessments and can be carried out either as part of an overall risk assessment or a separate exercise.

Based on the findings of the assessment you should take appropriate action as necessary. You must also review your fire risk assessment and regularly update it.

The fire safety risk assessment process involves evaluating and keeping under review, the existing fire safety measures to establish whether they are adequate or if more requires to be done. It is essentially a matter of applying common sense in consideration of the premises for which you have responsibility and identification of anything which could cause harm from fire.

There are 5 Steps in the Process and this form takes you through each of them: 1) identify the people at risk; 2) Identify the fire hazards; 3) evaluate the risk and decide if the existing fire safety measures are adequate; 4) record the fire safety risk assessment actions and information; 5) review the fire safety risk assessment regularly.

Fire safety law requires information to be recorded where five or more employees are employed; or the premises are subject to licensing or registration; or an alteration notice has been issued by an enforcing authority requiring this. We would however always recommend it is recorded in writing and this form can be used for that purpose. If however you do not feel sufficiently confident/competent to undertake the fire safety risk assessment you may wish to commission a fire safety specialist.

## Emergency Plan

The findings of the fire safety risk assessment should be used to prepare an emergency plan. The plan should set out, what to do in case of fire, identify the escape routes, where to assemble and how to contact the Fire and Rescue Service. The fire safety equipment and any equipment that provides a possible ignition source (e.g. cooking, electrical appliances, fixed wiring etc.) should be regularly maintained to reduce the chance of fire and the risk to people. Frequent checks should also be made to make sure that the storage of materials, especially flammable materials, does not increase the risk of fire or prevent the use of escape routes. It is important that all persons using the church know what to do if a fire does occur. To make sure that the emergency plan works regular fire drills should be carried out.

## The 5 Step Guide to Fire Safety Risk Assessment

- 1 Identify people at risk
- 2 Identify the fire hazards
- 3 Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect from risk
- 4 Record, plan, inform, instruct and train
- 5 Review

# FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

## DETAILS

Church Name:	Westwood Parish Church
Premises Name:	Church and Halls (integral)
Address:	Belmont Drive, Westwood, East Kilbride
Responsible Person:	Elizabeth Porterfield (H&S Co-ordinator)
Position:	Charity Trustee
Date of Assessment:	31/7/22
Carried out by:	Elizabeth Porterfield
Position:	Trustee and Health & Safety Co-ordinator



# DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

## Step 1 - Identify People at Risk ( & activities undertaken)

Brief details:	Employee and office bearers; Kirk Session; members of the public (congregation and visitors); Including elderly and infirm. Children (school club, organisation and visitors) Organisations FAB school care; Guides; Brownies; Girls Brigade etc
Use of the Premises:	Church services; (worship, weddings, funerals) Church events; coffee mornings and lunches Organisations internal; Organisations external school club FAB and hall lets.

## NUMBERS USING THE BUILDINGS

Times in Use	Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm FAB Monday to Friday 6pm to 10pm various organisations Sunday 9am to 12 noon
Total Number of Employees & Activities:	1
Capacity & Maximum Number of Persons Present at a Church Meeting or Service:	150 (usual attendance between 80 – 90 )
Maximum Number of Persons Present at a Club or Concert or other activity:	FAB – 55 Concert is 100

## OCCUPANTS/USERS ESPECIALLY AT RISK

Sleeping Occupants:	No
Disabled Occupants/Users:	Sunday worship 50 – 12 infirm
Lone Workers:	1
Young Persons:	40
Contractors:	Max at any time 2



## Step 2 - Identify Fire Hazards (Sources of Ignition)

Type	Comment	Are existing control measures sufficient?	
<b>Electrical appliances and wiring</b> – what is the condition and inspection regime like, including leads, fuses, fixed wiring, lighting, projection, audio & office equipment, and mains switch gear? <i>(Is your Fixed Wiring in good condition and tested? Date of last test? PAT (portable appliance testing completed)? Date of last test? Users requested to undertake visual inspection before using? Equipment subject to a regular formal inspection? Mains switch gear modern and in good condition?)</i>	Inspection carried out on 17/8/22 Report has never been received from contractor. (still chasing) PAT testing carried out 17/8/22  <b>PAT TESTING CARRIED OUT ON 28/2/24.</b>  <b>FICR UPGRADE CARRIED OUT ON 14/5/24.</b>  <b>CHURCH IS NOW FULLY COMPLIANT AND HAS BEEN ISSUED WITH AN 'ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CERTIFICATE'</b>	YES	NO
<b>Cooking on the premises</b> – what type of equipment do you have? <i>(Any deep fat frying – are ducts &amp; filters regularly cleaned; steam coffee making machine- is it subject to statutory inspection; do you have any gas cylinders are they stored outside securely; is the mains gas isolation valve accessible?)</i>	Electric (Induction hob) No gas cylinder – gas valve disabled	YES	
<b>Heating &amp; Ventilation Appliances</b> – what type of equipment do you have? <i>(If you have gas fired water and heating boilers are they regularly maintained and inspected? Do you have any <b>portable heating</b>? Is your heating guarded where needed? Are areas adequately ventilated? Is the boiler room locked and free from clutter and not used for storage?)</i>	2 gas combi boilers inspected annually No inspection 21/22 Inspection done 13/7/23  Boiler cupboard has been cleared of Combustible materials.  Ventilation system adequate and operational	YES	
<b>Naked Flames</b> – do you use candles, oil lamps or incense? <i>(Stored satisfactorily and always extinguished following use?)</i>	Candles during advent – only lit during worship.	YES	
<b>Smoking</b> – is it prohibited and signs displayed?	Smoking prohibited but signage needs to be improved		NO



<p><b>Housekeeping &amp; Storage – are areas clean and tidy free from clutter?</b></p> <p><i>(Are the buildings and surrounds free from defects, clean and tidy?</i></p> <p><i>Do you have a clear and documented process for reporting defects and remedying them?</i></p> <p><i>What items do you store? Are they combustible? Are they stored under the correct conditions? Do you have any areas where there is an accumulation of items? Any paint or thinners or other inflammable items e.g. cleaning products?)</i></p>	<p>All areas are clear from clutter and regular cleaning schedule in place.</p> <p>External areas clear and paths in good condition.</p> <p>Cleaning products kept in cleaners cupboard.</p>	YES		
<p><b>Combustible Materials – does your furniture and any furnishings meet the regulations?</b></p> <p><i>(What if any other combustible materials do you have – soft play area with foam materials, crash mats, etc; paints, thinners, gas bottles; wood; etc? Are they accessible and stored correctly? Christmas trees, decorations, lights at that time of year?)</i></p>	<p>Seat fabric is Low Hazard commercial seating fabric. The material is fire retardant and is manufactured by Camira Fabrics in West Yorkshire.</p> <p>Christmas trees and decorations are stored in dunny (below sanctuary floor)</p>	YES		
<p><b>Use of Contractors and Volunteers – to undertake work at the premises.</b></p> <p><i>(Do you discuss how the work will be completed? Do you undertake a risk assessment? What procedures are in place when working at height, or depth, using heat- do you ask to see a method statement, is a hot work permit used? Is there are process for informing contractors and volunteers of hazards?)</i></p>	<p>Verbal discussions held – but no risk assessment being provided by contractors</p> <p>No risk assessments for volunteers and no hot work permit written.</p> <p>Work at height – training guidance document written for access to loft.</p>		NO	
<p><b>Arson – what precautions do you take to prevent malicious fire?</b></p> <p><i>(Is there good security to doors and windows; secure storage of bins/skips adjacent to the building; letterboxes have internal metal box to contain any burning material pushed through; extent and appropriateness of security lighting, boundary fencing, alarms and CCTV? What are your keyholding arrangements?)</i></p>	<p>Security shutters in place to rear windows –</p> <p>External security lighting</p> <p>Security alarm (monitored)</p> <p>And list of key holders given</p> <p>Letter box not guarded</p>		NO	

<b>Lightning</b> – is the conductor subject to inspection and regular testing?	The building does not have a lightening conductor	YES	
<b>Other Sources</b>		YES	NO

If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

<i>What needs to be done to make each situation safe?</i>	<i>Action required by whom</i>	<i>Date due</i>	<i>Date complete</i>
PAT Testing to be brought up to date	H&S Co-ordinator		
Improve No Smoking signage			
Risk Assessment for Volunteers to be written and Hot Work permit			
Letter box guard to be put in place			

**Any Additional Information:**



### Step 3 ~ Evaluate, Remove, Reduce and Protect From Risk

Question			Comment
Are ignition sources controlled to reduce the chances of fire?	YES	NO	
Are combustible materials kept away from ignition sources?	YES	NO	
Are all windows and openings closed last thing at night?	YES	NO	
Do you have a fire alarm?	YES	NO	
What type of fire alarm?			
Is your fire alarm system adequate for your premises?	YES	NO	
Will everybody be warned if the fire alarm operates?	YES		
If you do not have a fire alarm how will everybody be warned?			
Do you have any smoke alarms?	YES	NO	
Where are your smoke alarms located?	In all rooms and corridors		
Can everyone escape without assistance?	YES	NO	
Is escape from fire available in more than one direction?	YES	NO	
Are all fire exits easily identified by the correct signs?	YES	NO	
Are escape routes free from obstruction and storage?	YES	NO	
Are all doors on escape routes easily opened without a key?	YES	NO	
Do all doors on escape routes open in the direction of escape?	YES	NO	
Can everyone escape in a reasonable time?	YES	NO	
Do you have emergency lighting?	YES	NO	
Is the lighting adequate to illuminate circulation routes?	YES	NO	
Do you have fire fighting equipment?	YES	NO	
Is it serviced annually?	YES	NO	
Is the fire fighting equipment adequate for the risks present?	YES	NO	
Are fire doors in good condition and labelled fire door keep shut?	YES	NO	
Are housekeeping and general waste management adequate?	YES	NO	
Are security arrangements sufficient to prevent access?	YES	NO	
Are measures adequate to prevent the incidents of arson?	YES	NO	
What are your keyholding arrangements?	We have adequate contactable keyholders		
Can the fire service easily get to your premises?	YES	NO	

If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -



What needs to be done to make each situation safe?	Action required by whom	Date due	Date complete
We have fire wardens with Hi-Viz vests.			

Improve fire escape routes with handrails on exterior stairs to assist the infirm			



## Step 4 ~ Record, Plan, Inform, Instruct and Train

***You should record your fire safety arrangements – this includes:***

Have you made an emergency plan?

YES

NO

Have you provided fire instruction and training to employees and volunteers?

YES

NO

Have you provided fire safety instruction/information to those letting your premises?

YES

NO

Are there records of fire drills to test your training and emergency plan?

YES

NO

Are there records of maintenance on all fire safety measures and equipment?

YES

NO

Have you recorded the significant findings of this assessment?

YES

NO

If you have answered NO to any question above complete the details below: -

<i>What needs to be done to make each situation safe?</i>	<i>Action required by whom</i>	<i>Date Due</i>	<i>Date complete</i>
Ensuring that this assessment is carried out going forward.	Kirk Session		4/12/22
Fire drill carried out on 10/7/22. No details were recorded.			



## Step 5 ~ Review

***Your fire safety risk assessment must be kept up to date***

### Date of next review

It is recommended that you review your fire safety risk assessment regularly (recommended every 12 months) **OR** if you make changes to the layout of your premises, any changes to work processes, significantly increase the amount of combustible materials stored or displayed or sources of ignition, change your opening hours (e.g. to include night time for rough sleepers, etc) or any failures in your fire safety precautions then you should review your fire safety risk assessment.

**10/7/23**

<b>References</b>	Health & Safety Executive Practical fire Safety Guidance Church of Scotland Insurance Services Ltd (the web site contains a number of information sheets which will also be of assistance when considering fire safety)	Health & Safety Executive <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/fire.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/fire.htm</a>  Scottish Government Sector Specific at <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Fire-Rescue/FireLaw/FireLaw/SectorSpecificGuidance">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/Fire-Rescue/FireLaw/FireLaw/SectorSpecificGuidance</a> Guidance Church of Scotland Insurance Services Limited <a href="http://www.cosic.co.uk/guidelines">http://www.cosic.co.uk/guidelines</a>
<b>Contact Information</b>	Kirk Session	

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