

Evaluation, Risk Assessment and Action Plan

Evaluation

Section 1 Hazard Check Forms

The hazard check forms reveal that although all rooms have some combustible material, most such items are furniture or fittings. Some contain stores of paper.

In almost all cases there is no credible source of ignition. Electrical apparatus is subject to regular check for safety and therefore its probability of causing fire is rated as either incredible (1) or improbable (2).

The only genuine source of ignition is the gas stove in the hall kitchen. It is only used by responsible adults. All combustible material in the kitchen is stored safely in cupboards or drawers. Therefore the probability of fire is rated as improbable (2).

The only items considered highly combustible are the fuel stored in the external gardening store and the gas bottles stored in the Scouts external store. In both cases there is no source of ignition – not even electrical apparatus. Both stores are isolated from the building by brick walls. Therefore the probability of fire is rated as improbable (2).

Section 2 Personnel check forms

Personnel who might be considered at risk are those with poor mobility, impaired hearing or eyesight and young children. The types of consequence of fire and probability are considered in the Risk Assessment section.

Occupancy of the church building is fairly low and the activities carried out, worship, teaching, discussion, presentations, concerts have probabilities of causing fire rated as incredible (1).

Occupancy of the halls is moderate. Pre-school is in session during term time from 08:30 to 15:00. The young children are under constant supervision. Pre-school has its own fire procedure and practices. Other sessions are held sporadically through the week. Most attendees are reasonably fit so are not considered vulnerable.

Sections 3 & 4 Fire Precautions & Fire Procedure

The means of evacuation in event of fire are reviewed regularly along with the suitability of signage. Escape routes are kept as short as possible. In most cases alternative routes exist that can be used in event of the primary route being blocked by fire.

A fire procedure has been drawn up and agreed by the Church Meeting and Trustees.

Fire practices have established that the church building can be evacuated in three minutes or less.

Therefore the probability of personnel being exposed to fire or smoke inhalation must be rated as improbable (2).

Fire extinguishers and blankets are serviced annually by the manufacturer and certified as safe.

Risk Assessment

Please see the Methodology document for the meaning of the numerical values.

The types of consequence to be considered are:

Multiple fatalities (5) - probability assessed as (incredible (1)), Resulting Risk is $1 \times 5 = 5$

Single Fatality (4) – probability assessed as incredible (1). Resulting Risk is $1 \times 4 = 4$

Multiple major injuries (3) - probability assessed as improbable (2). Resulting Risk is $2 \times 3 = 6$

Single major injury (2) - probability assessed as improbable (2). Resulting Risk is $2 \times 2 = 4$

Minor injury (1) - probability assessed as improbable (2). Resulting Risk is $2 \times 1 = 2$

A review of the previous sections concludes that risk has been reduced as low as reasonably practical (ALARP).

Action Plan

All the above risks are rated 9 or less, which means that they are deemed to be tolerable according to the Methodology. Therefore no further action is required to reduce risk.

This assessment should be reviewed at regular intervals, such as 5-yearly in association with any quinquennial survey.

It should similarly be reviewed whenever any significant changes are made to the building, fire safety equipment or escape routes.

It may be advisable to reinstate fire practices on an annual or biennial basis as deemed appropriate.

Regular servicing of the fire precaution equipment should continue.

Regular inspection of the electrical installation should continue at intervals recommended by the contractor.

Users of the buildings should be reminded to ensure that escape routes must be kept clear of obstruction and fire exits must not be blocked.