



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

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Fire safety advice for restaurants, fast food outlets and take away shops

This page contains fire safety information for owners and managers of restaurants, fast food outlets and take away shops.

Fires in commercial premises can be devastating, not only in terms of injuries, but also in the cost of repairs and the disruption to business, with the possibility that your customers may go elsewhere. One of the most common causes of fire within a commercial kitchen is via the extraction system. The attached leaflet provides guidance on how to reduce the risk ensuring that there is a programme of cleaning and service in place.

There have been a number of recent fires in Bedfordshire in businesses such as fast food outlets, takeaways, cafes and restaurants where upper floors are being used for sleeping accommodation. These fires often result in significant financial loss, with a high risk of injury and even death.

It is particularly important to consider and put in place the right fire safety arrangements to protect not only the lives of you, your family, employees and customers, but also your property and your business.

In many cases it has come to light that people are sleeping in rooms and or flats above businesses, often accessed by a single unprotected staircase from the main public or kitchen area of the building. Often these exit routes are blocked with combustible materials.

Experience has shown that people living on upper floors find it difficult to evacuate quickly and safely in an emergency unless a safe exit route is available.

Reducing the dangers

- Fit an alarm to provide early warning of fire throughout the building
- Keep escape routes clear from combustible material and other obstructions
- Never wedge open fire doors or remove door closing devices (a fire door can only protect you if it is kept closed)
- Protect/separate staircases with fire resisting construction to ensure your exit route is safe
- Make sure your family and employees know how to:
- Get out of the building in the event of fire - have a fire escape plan
- Call the fire and rescue service