



*Hampshire Fire and  
Rescue Service*

# CASUAL SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION

A guide to fire safety in non-residential  
buildings used for temporary  
sleeping accommodation

[www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

**If any building is to be used safely for temporary sleeping purposes then the following fire safety arrangements should be observed; following an assessment of the risks involved.**

#### **MEANS OF ESCAPE**

Escape routes from premises should be known and kept available whilst the building is occupied.

All fire exit doors should be easily openable from the inside without the use of a key and be free from obstruction.

Sleeping accommodation should be limited to the ground floor only.

#### **FIRE ALARM (WHERE NO FIXED ALARM SYSTEM IS PROVIDED)**

For the duration of the stay an improvised fire alarm should be provided e.g. handbell or whistle.

#### **SMOKE DETECTION (WHERE NO AUTOMATIC SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEM IS PROVIDED)**

For the duration of the stay, battery operated domestic smoke detectors made in accordance with the current British Standard should be provided in positions so as to give early warning of fire. They should be installed within the sleeping accommodation and along fire exit routes.

#### **LIGHTING (WHERE NO EMERGENCY LIGHTING IS PROVIDED)**

A level of subdued lighting should be maintained during the whole period of darkness by use of the normal lighting.

Two properly maintained dry cell battery handlamps should be available for use by responsible persons or supervisors in the event of a lighting failure.

#### **FIRE EXTINGUISHING EQUIPMENT**

All responsible persons or supervisors should be familiar with the position and correct method of operation of any fire extinguishers situated on the premises. Where no firefighting equipment is provided one 9 litre water extinguisher should be provided for every 200 square metres, and supplemented with buckets of water where necessary.

#### **FIRE ROUTINE**

The Fire Service should be called immediately a fire is discovered, or if a fire is suspected.

If there is no exchange telephone on the premises, or no mobile phone is available then a notice should be displayed giving the location of the nearest available telephone from which to call the fire service.

#### **GENERAL**

At night all unnecessary plugs should be removed from electrical socket outlets. Cookers should be checked to ensure that they are not left on. All internal doors should, where appropriate, be closed.

**For Further Information Contact**  
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**[tech.support@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:tech.support@hantsfire.gov.uk)**