

HIWFRS advice in respect of HMOs and of Planning Applications not involving higher-risk premises.

General Guidance in respect of Planning Applications deemed to present a low- or medium- level of risk.

Access for Fire Appliances

Vehicular access to each building on-site should conform to the guidance contained within the relevant version of Approved Document B. Whilst it is acknowledged that Building Regulations guidance is not typically considered at the planning stage, it is observed that road layouts may be difficult to alter once planning permission is granted.

It is therefore strongly recommended that the roadway layouts be reviewed in line with this guidance to resolve any perceived issues at an early stage.

Access for High-reach Appliances

High reach appliances currently operated by the HIWFRS exceed the maximum requirements given in Section 17 of the Approved Document B. When considering high rise buildings these variations should be considered as additions and incorporated as follows. Structures such as bridges, which a high-reach appliance may need to cross should have a maximum carrying capacity of 26 tonnes. Where the operation of a high reach vehicle is envisaged, a road or hard standing is required 6m wide. In addition, the road or hard standing needs to be positioned so that its nearer edge is not less than 3m from the face of the building.

Water Supplies

Additional water supplies for firefighting may be necessary. You should contact the Water Management Team, Hampshire & IOW Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9SJ (hydrants@hantsfire.gov.uk) to discuss your proposals.

Fire Protection

HIWFRS would strongly recommend that consideration is given to the installation of Automatic Water Fire Suppression Systems (AWFSS) to promote life safety and property protection within the premises.

HIWFRS is fully committed to promoting Fire Protection Systems for both business and domestic premises. Support is offered to assist all in achieving a reduction of loss of life and the impact of fire on the wider community.

Firefighting and the Environment

Should a serious unsuppressed fire occur on the premises, the water environment may become polluted with 'fire water run-off' that may include foam. The Service will liaise with the Environment Agency at any incident where they are in attendance and under certain circumstances, where there is a serious risk to the environment, a 'controlled burn' may take place. This of course could lead to the total loss of the building and its contents.

Premises' occupiers have a duty to prevent and mitigate damage to the water environment from 'fire water run off' and other spillages.

Timber-framed Buildings

These types of buildings are particularly vulnerable to severe fire damage and fire spread during the construction phase.

The UK Timber Frame Association publication '16 Steps to Fire Safety on Timber Frame Construction Sites' provides guidance on this issue and is available from:

<https://www.structuraltimber.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/16stepstofiresafety-3.pdf>

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the 'Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation', published by the Construction Confederation and The Fire Protection Association (Sixth Edition, ISBN 1-902790-33-2)

Copies of the 'Joint Codes of Practice' and useful sister publication, 'Construction Site Fire Prevention Checklist' (Second edition, ISBN 1-902790-32-4), are available for purchase from the Fire Protection Association: (www.thefpa.co.uk) and from the Construction Industry Press:

([Publications for Construction Professionals and Builders | CIP Books](#))