

Diocese of Sheffield



DAC Guidance Notes



Fire Risk Assessments

February 2015

Fire Safety Regulations

In October 2006, all churches came under the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#) which requires **every** church to have carried out a **FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**. This is to remind **all** churches that they should have completed the Assessment and that the Risk Assessment recordings should be updated as necessary.

The Methodist Church Property Fire Adviser, Colin Domville, who represented the Churches Main Committee (now CLAS) on the Stakeholders' Group, has produced an assessment designed specifically for churches which you are encouraged to use. Please use the link here to access the [Fire Risk Assessment Principles for Church Premises](#).

It is essential that after carrying out an initial assessment (which you should have already done) every church should check **each year** that all its premises are still satisfactory and that there have been no changes to the building(s) that might affect the safety of the occupants. **Any** changes should be recorded. The day-to-day uses made of buildings can change almost imperceptibly over time: the side door you used to leave open during service-time in 2007 might now be kept permanently bolted and double-locked. SO CHECK

The Fire Extinguisher Service National Contract

The Extinguisher Service National Contract for churches operated by Chubb Fire Ltd, based at Middleton, Manchester, National Account Division is still available at the previous costs of £6 per unit and extends to **31 March 2016**. This means that the prices for servicing and supply of new extinguishers will have remained the same since 1994. When dealing with a Chubb service engineer churches should ensure that they are on a **National Accounts Contract**.



Further advice on protecting church buildings from fire is available from Ecclesiastical Insurance covering wiring, heating, candles, hot work permits and other matters can be found [here](#).