University of St Andrews



Additional Actions When the Fire Alarm Has Been Deactivated

1. Review the building's arrangements for fire risk and evacuation management

- a. If in doubt, or for any advice, please contact EHSS.
- b. If necessary, appoint (additional) Fire Marshals and/or Fire Wardens.
- c. Ensure that all staff appointed are clear re their roles and responsibilities.

2. Notify all staff of date and time of alarm deactivation

- a. Include School staff and also ancillary staff (e.g. cleaners and janitors).
- b. Post a warning notice on all building exits and entrances.
- c. If the alarm is to be off overnight, notify night security and ask for increased patrol regularity.
- d. Estates staff who may be working in remote areas of the building must notify a fire marshal or warden before starting and after finishing.
- e. Notify Kenneth Stewart (insurance) of the alarm deactivation.
- f. Contact EHSS to discuss if large gatherings are scheduled to occur during the deactivation.

3. Prohibit activities with increased risk of fire

- a. Prohibit all 'hot work' by contractors or Estates unless absolutely necessary, and where such work is conducted then increase frequency of fire watch on the hot work permit.
- b. Retain minimum quantity required of flammable substances in the building, and store in fire resistant cabinets.
- c. Where possible, delay any activity with high attendant risk of fire until the alarm is activated, including overnight reactions or ovens.

4. Be extra-vigilant!

- a. Fire wardens to check daily that all escape routes are free of any obstruction.
- b. Ask staff to be generally aware of fire risks and observe good housekeeping practices.
- c. Fire wardens to check at the outset that all extinguishers are in place around the building and contact EHSS for spares.

5. Ascertain how a fire will be communicated in the absence of an alarm

- a. Obtain confirmation of any suspected fire and call 999.
- b. If a fire is detected, all staff should be warned, for example by shouting 'Fire!', by using loudhailers or by using air horns, where available.
- c. When staff have been notified of a fire they should then immediately follow regular fire evacuation procedures.
- d. Fire wardens/marshals should try to determine if anybody is still in the building, including Estates staff who may be working there.