

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

FIRE SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

FIRE SAFETY 2011

Introduction

The approach to providing fire protection in the National Gallery has been developed over a number of years and continues to evolve as alterations and improvements are made to the building, new fire safety legislation is introduced and new technologies emerge.

Risks

The principal risks this policy sets out to address are as follows:

- endangering the lives of general public and staff
- damage to the collection
- damage to the building
- reputational damage arising from failure to manage the risk of fire

Policies/procedures.

The aims are to preserve life, protect the fabric of the building and the collection. The fire safety policy is based on ten fundamental principles.

- The development of a proactive 'Fire Safety Culture' throughout the organisation by raising staff awareness by means of comprehensive staff training and publication of detailed written emergency procedures.
- Compliance with the statutory requirements imposed by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005, guidance and codes of practice, using these as a minimum standard to be improved upon wherever possible.
- Close contact and full co-operation with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and other controlling authorities to ensure strict compliance with all conditions imposed by current legislation.
- High standards of risk management to include the production of written risk assessments which are reviewed annually.
- Preventing rapid fire spread and protecting the escape routes by utilising the physical elements of construction to create subdivision of the building with fire resistant materials (compartmentation).
- The installation and maintenance of high quality fire detection and alarm systems, fixed automatic fire suppression in selected higher risk areas, emergency lighting systems and portable fire fighting equipment.
- An evacuation strategy for disabled persons that ensures a standard of escape consistent with the standard of access.

Fire Safety Risk Management Statement

- Strict control and monitoring of building contractors through a hot work permit system.
- A rigidly enforced no smoking policy in the building, permitting smoking only in designated areas.
- An emergency plan designed to mitigate damage and return the Gallery to normal operation in as short a time as possible in the event of disaster.

Responsibilities

The Fire Safety Officer is responsible for ensuring operational compliance with this policy. The Director of Operations and Administration is responsible for ensuring this policy effectively mitigates the principal risks and for monitoring the effectiveness of fire safety arrangements.