

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE DOOR
SAFETY WEEK 26 SEPT – 2 OCT 2016

99 Facts about Fire Doors

Key statistics on fires

Great Britain

1. There were 39,600 dwelling fires in Great Britain in 2013-14. (Source: Fire Statistics Great Britain¹)
2. There were 258 fire related deaths in dwellings in Great Britain in 2013-14. (Source: Fire Statistics Great Britain)
3. There were 22,000 fires recorded in buildings that weren't dwellings e.g. retail units, pubs and bars. (Source: Fire Statistics Great Britain)
4. Over two thirds of fire-related deaths in Great Britain occurred in accidental dwelling fires and more than half of the victims were aged 65 years or older. (Source: Fire Statistics Great Britain)
5. In 2014-15, there were 617 dwelling fires per million people in Great Britain. (Source: Gov UK²)
6. In 2015, fire accounted for 13% of domestic property insurance claims. (Source: Association of British Insurers)

England

7. There were 303 fire-related fatalities in England during 2015-16. (Source: Home Office³)
8. Dwelling fires are the most common type of primary fire, accounting for 43% of primary fires in 2015-16 and almost a fifth of all fires. (Source: Home Office)
9. Fire-related fatalities in accidental dwelling fires accounted for almost two-thirds of all fire-related fatalities. (Source: Home Office)
10. There were 7,644 non-fatal fire casualties in England during 2015-16 (Source: Home Office)

¹ Fire Statistics: Great Britain April 2013 to March 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/456652/Fire_Statistics_Great_Britain_2013-14_PDF_Version_.pdf

² Fire 0201: Dwelling fires attended by fire and rescue services by nation <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

³ Fire Statistics Monitor: April 2015 to March 2016:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545927/fire-statistics-monitor-1516-hosb0916.pdf

11. In the 2014-15 government report, it was found that 41% of all fatalities from fires in England were 65 years old and over (Source: Home Office⁴).
12. The elderly are 10 times more likely to die in a fire than younger people. (Source: FIA⁵)
13. The average area of fire damage in dwellings in England is 18.5m². (Source: Gov UK⁶)

Scotland

14. There were 41 total fire fatalities in Scotland in 2014-15. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service⁷)
15. Three quarters (75%) of fire fatalities were as a result of dwelling fires in Scotland in 2014-15. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
16. There were 1098 non-fatal casualties in Scotland in 2014-15. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
17. 86% of non-fatal fire casualties in 2014-15 occurred in dwelling fires. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
18. Three in every four non-fatal casualties as a result of accidental dwelling fires. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
19. There were 5571 total dwelling fires in Scotland in 2014-15. (Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)

Wales

20. There were 19 total fire fatalities in Wales in 2015-16. (Source: Welsh Government⁸)
21. There were 13 fire related fatalities in dwellings in 2015-16. (Source: Welsh Government)
22. There were 593 non-fatal casualties in 2015-16. (Source: Welsh Government)
23. 77% of non-fatal casualties in 2015-16 were as a result of dwelling fires. (Source: Welsh Government)

Northern Ireland

24. There were 11 fire fatalities in Northern Ireland in 2014-15. (Source: NIFRS Annual Report 2014-15⁹)
25. There were 8 fatalities as a result of dwelling fires in Northern Ireland in 2014-15. (Source: NIFRS Annual Report 2014-15)
26. There were 158 non-fatal casualties as a result of dwelling fires in Northern Ireland in 2014-15. (Source: NIFRS Annual Report 2014-15)
27. There were 923 dwelling fires in 2014-15. (Source: NIFRS Annual Report 2014-15)

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/532364/fire-statistics-england-1415-hosb0816.pdf

⁵ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/how-care-homes-can-make-compliance-easy.html#sthash.DLeZnm93.dpuf>

⁶ Fire 0204: Average area of damage in dwelling fires:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables>

⁷ Fire And Rescue Statistics Scotland 2014-15

http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/media/880577/statistics_2014_15_v1.1.pdf

⁸ Fire statistics Wales, 2015-16 <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2016/160727-fire-statistics-2015-16-en.pdf>

⁹ NIFRS Annual Report 2014/2015

<https://www.nifrs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/92875-NIFRS-Annual-Report-2015-WEB.pdf>

Fire doors, legislation and best practice

Fire doors

28. Fire protection systems in buildings range from inbuilt (passive) fire protection to sprinklers and fire alarms. Fire doors are one of the most critical elements of passive fire protection, used to provide compartmentation – in other words, containing fire and smoke for a period of time to allow people to be safely rescued and evacuated.
29. There are about 3 million new fire doors bought and installed every year in the UK, the vast majority made from timber. (Source: British Woodworking Federation)

Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) also known as the Fire Safety Order (FSO)

30. The RRO was signed into law on 7 June 2005. Its provisions came into force on 1 October 2006.
31. The responsibility for fire risk assessment in all non-domestic buildings, including the common parts of flats and houses of multiple occupation, falls to the so-called 'responsible person'. The responsible person must carry out a fire safety risk assessment and implement and maintain a fire management plan. (Source: BWF-Certifire¹⁰)
32. The RRO applies to you if you are:
 - Responsible for business premises
 - An employer or self-employed with business premises
 - Responsible for a part of a dwelling where that part is solely used for business purposes
 - A charity or voluntary organisation
 - A contractor with a degree of control over any premises
 - Providing accommodation for paying guests(Source: BWF-Certifire)
33. The government says you must keep a written record of your Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) if your business has 5 or more people. (Source: Safety management UK¹¹)
34. Fire safety in the common areas of HMOs, blocks of flats or maisonettes are controlled by the RRO. (Source: Fire Safe¹²)
35. Article 17 of the FSO requires a suitable maintenance regime to ensure relevant equipment is kept in an efficient state. This includes fire doors and escape doors. (Source: FDIS¹³)
36. Article 18 of the Fire Safety Order requires the responsible person to appoint one or more competent persons to assist in undertaking the preventive and protective measures. The 'Competent Person' will need to demonstrate competence. With regard to fire doors and escape doors this is where the FDIS education programmes come in. (Source: FDIS)

Building Regulations and standards

37. The Building Regulations provide guidance as to the minimum building standards to be achieved. Each country has their own building regulation documents for fire safety.
 - For England and Wales these are in Approved Document B.
 - For Scotland these are in Technical Handbook 2.

¹⁰ <http://www.bwfcertifire.org.uk/assets/bwf-best-practice-guide-2016.pdf>

¹¹ http://www.safety-managementuk.com/the_wrong_person.php

¹² <http://www.firesafe.org.uk/houses-in-multiple-occupation/>

¹³ <http://fdis.co.uk/fire-door-law>

- For Northern Ireland these are in Technical Booklet E.

38. To determine the FD rating of fire doors, the manufacturers are having fire doors assessed by subjecting them to a test procedure specified in BS 476-22 or BS EN 1634-1.

Common Fire Door Failures

39. A review undertaken by FDIS certificated fire door inspectors in 2015 revealed the extent of fire door failures being seen on site.
40. Over 61% of fire doors inspected had problems with fire or smoke seals. (Source: FDIS¹⁴)
41. More than a third had incorrect signage. (Source: FDIS)
42. 230 fire doors inspected had gaps bigger than 3mm between door and frame More than 20% had unsuitable hinges. (Source: FDIS)
43. Almost 1 in 6 had damage to the door leaf. (Source: FDIS)

High rise and tower blocks

44. In England, around 10% of the population live in a purpose-built flat. Yet, during 2009-10, around 25% of dwelling fires occurred within purpose-built blocks of flats. As a result, in that year, 23% of all fire deaths in dwellings occurred in these blocks. (Source: Local Government Association)
45. In 2009-10, of over 8,000 fires in blocks, only 22 fires necessitated evacuation of more than five people with the assistance of the fire and rescue service. (Source: Local Government Association¹⁵)
46. Very few people die as a result of a fire in a neighbour's flat or the common parts. Nearly all fire deaths occur in the flat in which fire starts. (Source: Local Government Association)
47. Half of residents said they would leave their flat if the fire was of the flat but in the building; 44% said they would stay put. (Source: YouGov poll¹⁶)
48. Around 71% said they would leave if there was a fire in their flat. (Source: YouGov poll)
49. 24% of respondents said that they still would stay inside to call 999 rather than getting straight out. (Source: YouGov poll)
50. The Know the Plan campaign was launched in March 2015 after a YouGov poll found that more than half (60%) – or around 760,000 of London's high rise households – don't have a fire escape plan. (Source: London Fire¹⁷)

Private rented property

51. In March 2016, a landlord from Redruth, Cornwall, was handed a £2,000 fine after inspectors from the local council found a number of fire safety hazards. An inspection of the flat in May 2015 by Cornwall Council's Private Sector Housing Team

¹⁴ <http://fdis.co.uk/latest-news/third-year-report-on-fire-door-safety-warns-of-sleepwalking-into-danger>

¹⁵ http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=1138bf70-2e50-400c-bf81-9a3c4dbd6575

¹⁶ <http://www.itv.com/news/london/update/2014-03-28/just-40-of-londoners-have-fire-escape-plan/>

¹⁷ http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/AC1B4F18D05A4D82B52979C6465BBFE5_Pupilpoweremployedtoensurehighrisemessagehitshome.asp#.V6R72esrKUK

- uncovered a number of issues, including a sub-standard fire doors that had bolt locks on the inside and clasp type locks on the outside. (Source: Falmouth Packet¹⁸)
52. In 2015, a Whitley landlord who failed to provide adequate fire precautions in his property was left with a court bill of almost £4,000. Officers found there were no fire doors to the escape route out of the property, the smoke detectors were defective, there was no heat detector in the kitchen and no emergency lighting to the escape route out of the building. (Source: Get Reading¹⁹)
 53. In November 2015, the landlord of a flat where a couple and three children died was jailed for 15 months. The landlord was also a fireman. Jay Liptrot, from Prestatyn, Denbighshire, failed to install fire doors that may have saved their lives. (Source: BBC²⁰)
 54. In November 2015, the director of a firm in charge of a three storey block of flats that caught fire was given a six months prison sentence, suspended for two years. He was also given 240 hours unpaid work and the firm was fined £10,000. He was sentenced after admitting 10 fire safety breaches including failure to provide adequate fire separation between the means of escape and the flats, and failure to provide adequate fire doors to one of the second floor flats. (Source: Lancashire Evening Post²¹)
 55. In March 2016, a landlord in Mersey side and his wife were fined £8,000 each after admitting to breaching fire safety rules in a property they rented out. They were also ordered to pay a £120 victim surcharge and the council's costs of £1,326. The property had been converted into three self-contained flats, but they had no fire alarms or fire doors. Liverpool City Council had already issued a prohibition order which said the property could not be occupied until the problems were fixed. A few months later, a re-inspection found that people were living in each of the flats and that work they had ordered had not been completed. (Source: FIA²²)

HMOs

56. In 2015, 58% of all fire door fines (£454,786) were issued to landlords of HMOs in the UK. (Source: FDIS²³)
57. You are six times more likely to die in a fire if you live in any house in multiple occupation (HMO), compared with a single family house. (Source: Bedford Council²⁴)
58. The risk increases to sixteen times more at risk of fatal injury if you live in an HMO which is 3 or more storeys high. (Source: Bedford Council)
59. Research indicates that certain types of HMOs present significantly greater health and safety risks to tenants than comparable single occupancy dwellings. Risk assessment carried out by ENTEC on fire safety in HMOs concluded that in all houses converted into bedsits, the annual risk of death per person is 1 in 50,000 (six times higher than in comparable single occupancy houses). (Source: County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service²⁵)

¹⁸

http://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/14335153.Camborne_landlord_fined_2_000_following_council_safety_inspection/

¹⁹ <http://www.getreading.co.uk/news/local-news/whitley-landlords-4000-court-bill-10628299>

²⁰ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-34877184>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3322296/Fireman-landlord-flat-couple-three-children-murdered-failed-install-fire-doors-saved-them.html>

²¹ <http://www.lep.co.uk/news/crime/lancashire-firm-fined-10-000-after-flat-fire-1-7581762>

²² <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/landlord-admits-to-breaching-fire-safety-rules.html>

²³ <http://fdis.co.uk/latest-news/fdis-reveals-million-pound-problem>

²⁴ http://www.bedford.gov.uk/housing/houses_in_multiple_occupation/hmo_fire_safety.aspx

²⁵ Fire Safety Precautions in HMOs

60. In the case of bedsit houses comprising three or more storeys the risk is 1 in 18,600 (sixteen times higher than in comparable single occupancy houses). (Source: County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)
61. In shared accommodation door sets must comprise of a 30 minute fire resisting door hung on three high melt point hinges. (Source: County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)
62. A Birmingham landlord has been fined £6,400 and ordered to pay £3,696 costs and a £120 victim surcharge for failing to licence an HMO and breaching HMO regulations. Officers that inspected the property found several fire safety faults including the self-closing devices for fire doors being defective or missing. (Source: Landlord today²⁶)
63. In July 2016, a landlord in Oxford were convicted for a range of housing and safety offences, including two fire-safety faults. Officers found three unrelated tenants in the unlicensed HMO. Officers also discovered that there was no fire door to the kitchen. The landlord received fines totalling £5,000 and was ordered to pay surcharges and council costs of £1,238. (Source: FIA²⁷)
64. In July 2016 the landlord of a HMO in Stafford was fined £5,000 after a number of fire safety risks were found at the property. The property was situated about a restaurant and was let out to several people, despite not having appropriate fire safety precautions in place. A raid on the property by Environmental Health officers and Staffordshire Police found many fire safety faults including inadequate fire separation between the accommodation and the restaurant. (Source: FIA²⁸)
65. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service prosecuted the landlord of a three story house in Lancashire following a fire in July 2012. The property was made up of three separate dwellings. An investigation into the property after the fire revealed several fire safety offences including fire doors not closing properly and no proper fire evacuation plan being in place. Group Manager Tony Crook, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's northern area community protection manager said: "The omission of fire safety precautions had the potential to cause death or serious injury to nine people, including children, either living or visiting there when the fire occurred." (Source: Stay Legal²⁹)

Social and council housing

66. In February 2016, housing manager Lewisham Homes was given a £40,000 fine and ordered to pay £23,407 in costs over breaching fire safety laws. The housing association was prosecuted by London Fire Brigade after two women died in a fire on the 16th floor of the tower block on February 4, 2011. An investigation after the fire revealed serious fire safety offences including the failure to maintain fire doors which directly contributed to the spread of the fire. The flat in which the fire started was fitted with a metal security door, preventing the existing fire door behind it from closing. (Source: London Evening Standard³⁰)

Care homes and sheltered accommodation

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service with the co-operation of Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/3189/Fire-safety-precautions-for-Houses-in-Multiple-Occupation/pdf/FireSafetyPrecautionsForHousesinMultipleOccupation.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2015/10/10k-bill-for-birmingham-hmo-landlord>

²⁷ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/three-landlords-in-the-dock-over-safety-breaches.html>

²⁸ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/hmo-landlord-hit-with-fine-after-fire-safety-failings.html>

²⁹ <http://www.staylegal.net/top-25-expensive-fines-fire-safety-breaches/>

³⁰ <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/firm-fined-40k-over-fatal-deptford-tower-block-fire-a3171041.html>

67. In 2013-14 there were 527 fires in care homes and sheltered accommodation in London, resulting in two deaths and 34 injuries. (Source: London Fire Brigade)
68. Fire safety inspectors found "truly shocking" safety failings at Morven House near Croydon which led to a fine of almost £70,000 for the care home company in May 2014. The case came just one week after the Brigade released figures showing that there were 10 fires a week in the capital's care homes and that a third of the people who died in accidental fires in London last year were receiving care services. (Source: London Fire Brigade³¹)
69. In July 2015 a Paignton care home owner was fined £19,500 and ordered to pay more than £5000 in costs for "very, very serious offences" which included fire doors with damaged or missing self-closing devices. (Source: FRM Journal³²)
70. In February 2016, a care group was hit with a fine and costs totalling £410,000. A series of fire regulation breaches put the lives of residents and staff at risk. These breaches came to light after an investigation into the fire at 60-bed Donwell House Care Home in Washington, Tyne and Wear in September 2014. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue service investigators uncovered several safety breaches. These breaches included wedged open fire doors and the failure to install electronic devices that allow fire doors to be held open and quickly closed in an emergency. The door was wedged open in the room where the fire started. This, the fire services says, let smoke and heat fill the communal corridor and travel into a neighbouring bedroom which also had a wedged-open door. (Source: Chronicle Live³³)
71. In 2013 there were 10 fires a week in London's care homes and sheltered accommodation. (Source: London Fire Brigade³⁴)
72. In February 2015, a fire broke out in a care home that had been deemed 'not safe' during an official inspection just months before. The fire started after an electrical fault sparked a fire in a flat which spread to the roof. Twenty-eight people, many elderly residents, were evacuated amid large plumes of smoke. A report published by the Care Quality Commission following the inspection in December 2014 showed there were already concerns about the care home's fire safety. The report found broken fire doors and one with intumescent seal damage, making it less effective in preventing the spread of smoke in the event of a fire. The Care Quality Commission concluded the report by saying they were taking enforcement action against the care home. (Source: Bournemouth Echo³⁵)
73. In September 2015, the London Fire Brigade stated that it was dealing with over 10 fires a week in care homes and sheltered accommodation alone. (Source: FIA³⁶)

Hotels and guest houses

74. In October 2015, the owner of a bed and breakfast in Three Bridges was ordered to pay more than £6,000. There were four breaches of the Fire Safety Order including fire doors being wedged open. The B&B owner was fined £1,000 for each of the four

³¹ http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/AC1B4F18D05A4D82B52979C6465BBFE5_Croydoncarehomeslapped.asp#.VdXvHPiViko

³² http://www.frmjournal.com/news/news_detail.owner-fined-for-care-home-failings.html? tkn=1361754C-BD74-478E-8C0E597FA26D6FFB

³³ <http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/washington-care-home-fire-results-11092529>

³⁴ <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/Fire-risk-in-care-homes.asp>

³⁵

http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/12939170.Care_home_put_residents_at_risk_in_fire_safety_shock/

³⁶ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/how-care-homes-can-make-compliance-easy.html#sthash.DLeZnm93.dpuf>

charges he admitted and ordered to pay more than £2,000 towards prosecution and court costs. (Source: Crawley news³⁷)

75. The part-time owner of a hotel in Torquay has been fined £11,500 after admitting to four breaches of the Fire Safety Order. Fire protection officers visited the Summerhill Hotel after a basic check showed a lack of safety provisions. The follow up inspection in June 2015 revealed several breaches to the RRO including a number of fire doors on the bedrooms and the fire doors to the hotel's kitchen and boiler room being below the acceptable standard. (Source: FIA³⁸)
76. The first jury trial of a case under the Fire Safety Order related to a hotel. In February 2012, a landmark trial at Blackfriars Crown Court led to £210,000 fines for a Finchley hotel and its director. Fire safety breaches included faulty fire doors. (Source: London Fire Brigade³⁹)
77. The owner of a guest house from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, has been fined over £24,000 after pleading guilty to charges for serious breaches of fire safety regulations. One of those charges was for inadequate fire protection for fire escape routes. A prohibition notice was issued to owner Nicole Harris, but she continued to allow people to stay at the property. Station Commander Ian Wilson, head of the fire safety enforcement team in Milton Keynes, said, "By allowing vulnerable people to sleep in her guest house, when she knew a prohibition notice was in place, the defendant recklessly put these people's lives at risk." (Source: FIA⁴⁰)
78. In March 2007, a fire broke out in the White Swan, Arundel Hotel. Serious fire safety breaches, including fire doors being wedged open, resulted in £25,000 in fines for Mill House Inns (Trading) Limited. Local magistrates said "company procedures for managing fire safety at the White Swan showed a total disregard for the safety of guests and staff, and that it was fortunate that none of the guests or staff had been killed or seriously injured". (Source: Stay Legal⁴¹)
79. The owners of a hotel in Bideford, Devon, were fined £40,000 after pleading guilty to five offences under the RRO. The hotel caught fire in May 2011 and 55 people were evacuated, including four people who had to be rescued from the roof of the building after becoming trapped. This led to an investigation that revealed several breaches including inadequate fire resisting doors and failure to maintain self-closing fire doors. (Source: Stay Legal)

Restaurants, Bars and Pubs

80. In May 2016, the owner of a pub in Hoddeston, Hertfordshire, was given a £25,000 fine after pleading guilty to six breaches of the Fire Safety Order 2005. Graeme Kerry was the tenant, employer and responsible person of The Bell pub when a blaze broke out at the premises in 2014 prompting an investigation. It was then that the fire safety breaches were found, including three bedroom doors that either lacked a self-closing device or had no seal to secure the room in the event of a fire. (Source: FIA⁴²)

³⁷ <http://www.crawleynews.co.uk/bridges-b-b-owner-prosecuted-putting-lives-guests/story-27953685-detail/story.html>

³⁸ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/hotel-owner-guilty-of-fire-safety-offences.html#sthash.sUBeqWyZ.dpuf5>

³⁹ London Fire Brigade press release, 8 February 2012: http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/ODA45C1B1DC14505A4FA14A3D18EFBA0_PR2940.asp#.VdX2g_IViko

⁴⁰ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/guest-house-owner-fined-24-000-.html#sthash.pOLN8GEg.dpuf>

⁴¹ <http://www.staylegal.net/top-25-expensive-fines-fire-safety-breaches/>

⁴² <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/pub-owner-learnt-from-his-mistakes-after-being-slapped-with-25k-fire-safety-fine.html#sthash.kEndC1Og.dpuf>
<http://www.fia.uk.com/news/pub-landlord-admits-fire-safety-failings.html>

81. In May 2016, a couple who owned a four story building consisting of a bar and rented accommodation were fined after being charged with 25 housing safety offences. One of these charges was for the poor condition of fire doors throughout the building. One was missing completely and another was off its hinges and propped up in the frame of the doorway. Dean Dunkley and Ilze Dauksta pleaded guilty and both received fines. Dunkley was fined a total of £4,800 and ordered to pay £3,404 costs and a £30 victim surcharge, while Dauksta was fined a total of £4,650 and also ordered to pay £3,404 costs and a £30 victim surcharge. AJ's Bar (Rugby) Limited was fined a total of £5,080. (Source: FIA⁴³)
82. In August 2016, the owner of an Indian restaurant in Bristol was issued a sixth month prison sentence. Zamshed Alam pleaded guilty to eight offences under the fire safety order including the failure to ensure that emergency routes and exits were fitted with adequate fire doors so that people could escape safely in the event of fire. The judge said Mr Alam had "deliberately ignored warnings and advice from the fire service and had a fire occurred it would have been difficult for employees to leave." (Source: FIA⁴⁴)

Fire safety in hospitals

83. Many hospitals, like care homes, have a 'defend in place' policy as part of their fire strategy in order to reduce the impact of building evacuations. They may also be built around a progressive horizontal evacuation system, so that patients can be moved progressively sideways away from a fire rather than taken outside the building. This is why hospitals rely especially on fire doors providing the intended fire separation.
84. In an example of how serious such risks can be, a fire at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in May 2013 caused 53 patients to flee for safety, involved 40 firefighters and resulted in several people being treated for smoke inhalation. (Source: Bucks Herald ⁴⁵)
85. Earlier this year, Britain's first PFI privately funded NHS hospital was denounced as a major fire safety risk. An independent report commissioned by the NHS Trust into fire precautions found that fire proofing materials had been used which did not meet the required 60 minute protection standard to allow for safe evacuation and prevent any fire from spreading in the building. (Source: ITV, June 2015 ⁴⁶)
86. Hospitals across England were urged to review their fire safety measures in 2013 after publication of the damning report into fire safety standards following a major blaze at the Woodlands Unit at Ipswich Hospital in 2011, during which firefighters had to force their way through locked fire doors to reach a young patient who was overcome by smoke. (Source: Building Better Healthcare ⁴⁷)

⁴³ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/couple-in-the-dock-over-one-of-the-most-serious-cases-of-safety-breaches.html>

⁴⁴ <http://www.fia.uk.com/news/restaurant-owner-faces-6-months-in-jail-for-fire-safety-failings.html>

⁴⁵ Bucks Herald, 4 June 2013: <http://www.bucksherald.co.uk/news/more-news/stoke-mandeville-hospital-fire-first-pictures-from-scene-of-blaze-1-5156886>

⁴⁶ ITV, 1 June 2015: <http://www.itv.com/news/border/2015-06-01/fire-safety-concerns-at-cumberland-infirmary/>

⁴⁷ Building Better Healthcare, 14 February 2013: http://www.buildingbetterhealthcare.co.uk/news/article_page/Hospitals_told_to_step_up_fire_security_after_scathing_report_into_Ipswich_blaze/86061

Awareness

Fire safety checks by families

87. A dodgy fire door is a sure sign of an unsafe building generally, yet two thirds of parents with children living away from home admit that even they would not know what to look for. (Source: Atomik Research, September 2015⁴⁸)
88. In a survey of a thousand parents with children living away from home in a rented property, shared house or student accommodation, nearly half (46%) of respondents cited furniture blocking doorways and corridors as visual clues which would most likely make them think that a building had poor fire safety. A further 38% said it would be old electrics or heating systems and 29% said they were most wary of buildings with no visible fire extinguishers. Damaged doors or internal doors wedged open were only mentioned by 23% and 22% respectively. (Source: Atomik Research, September 2015)
89. More than half of parents in the 2015 survey (54%) correctly identified what an 'internal fire door' looked like when shown a photograph, but 15% thought it was a 'normal door' and one in ten thought it was a security door. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)
90. According to the research, mothers are twice as likely as fathers to admit they would have no idea what a faulty fire door looks like. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)
91. More than half (51%) correctly knew that it is the property owner or landlord's responsibility to check fire doors. A fifth (20%) incorrectly thought it was up to the residents themselves. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)
92. Almost three in ten families (29%) admit that neither they nor their child checked a property's fire safety before they rented or moved in. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)
93. Yet only a quarter (25%) of the 2015 research respondents felt very confident that their family member knew about fire safety where they lived, as they had been given fire training or instructions. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)
94. A fifth (20%) of respondents had little, if any, confidence at all in their family member's living companions' fire safety awareness. A further 16% were completely unaware of whether they had any knowledge of fire safety at all. (Source: Atomik Research September 2015)

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95. In a survey of more than 1,000 tenants living in flats, only one third (35%) of the lowest income households renting flats say they have been given information on the emergency fire plan for the building where they live, compared to 88% of tenants on incomes over £100,000 a year. (Source: Atomik Research September 2016⁴⁹)
96. Those on incomes of £25,000 or less are much less likely to feel completely safe from fire (27%) than those on incomes above £80,000 (44%). (Source: Atomik Research September 2016)
97. Two out of every nine (22%) households with incomes under £25,000 living in rented flats who have concerns over fire safety are unable to move because they can't afford to. (Source: Atomik Research September 2016)

⁴⁸ Survey carried out in September 2015 by Atomik Research for Fire Door Safety Week 2015. The sample consisted of 1,002 parents with a child living away from home in a rented property, shared house or student accommodation.

⁴⁹ Survey of 1001 tenants living in flats was conducted in September 2016 by Atomik Research on behalf of Fire Door Safety Week.

98. More than half of all tenants (58%) and over 70% of lower income tenants have no idea who the 'Responsible Person' is for the building where they live – the person to whom they should usually report their fire safety concerns. (Source: Atomik Research September 2016)
99. 15% of all tenants living in blocks of flats who have got fire safety concerns have never reported those concerns to anyone at all. (Source: Atomik Research September 2016)