

Fire Safety in Construction

Course specification

Welcome

National Safety Academy is an innovative training provider offering courses and qualifications for safety professionals.

It's important to us that education is accessible. Not just in terms of cost, but also in the way it is delivered.

Learning shouldn't be a battle with complicated textbook paragraphs. It shouldn't be dry PowerPoint slides. It shouldn't be technical information without real-life context. It shouldn't be commitment to classroom dates, time away from work and family, and fixed exam schedules.

Instead, National Safety Academy believes learning should feel natural and engaging. It should be challenging, but in all the right ways. It should be comfortably balanced with personal and professional life. Most importantly, it should prepare and assess the learner in a way which reflects their real-life responsibilities outside of a learning environment.

It's your education, so do it your way.

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About the course

Manage fire risk on a live construction site, from the first delivery to the day residents move in.

The course is built around one site, Larkspur Court: five timber-frame blocks, occupied houses 8 m away, and residents moving in while the last blocks go up. You'll build its fire risk assessment yourself, one block at a time, so by the end you've written a complete assessment for a complex site.

Take it back to site

You'll get editable Word templates to use on your own projects: a hot works permit and a fire action notice.

Show your employer

The final exam has an 80% pass mark, so your certificate shows you've been tested, not just that you turned up.

Keep developing

If you want to go further into fire risk assessment, our Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment covers the knowledge criteria for fire risk assessors up to advanced level.

At a glance

Level
Awareness

Duration
20 hours

Delivery
Online, self-directed

Assessment
Multiple-choice quiz

About the course

Who is this course for?

This course is for anyone who runs or oversees fire safety on a live construction site.

These individuals might include:

- Site managers and supervisors
- Principal contractor project managers
- Health and safety advisers
- Contractors training whole teams

It also suits clients and designers who want to understand their fire safety duties under CDM, and how the decisions they make before work starts play out on site.

Who is this course not suitable for?

Anyone who wants to become a fire risk assessor for finished buildings. It covers construction sites only, so the Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment is the route for them.

People working on higher-risk buildings who need the Building Safety Act regime.

Anyone who needs hands-on extinguisher or fire marshal training.

Your learning journey

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- ✔ Explain why a building under construction or refurbishment is more vulnerable to fire than a finished one
- ✔ Explain how fire starts and spreads on a construction site, using the fire triangle and the four ways fire spreads
- ✔ Identify the main fire safety laws for construction sites, the duties of the responsible person and each CDM role, and who enforces them
- ✔ Carry out a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment for a construction site using the five-step method
- ✔ Recognise controls for ignition sources and fuel, including hot works permits, fire watches, and safe storage of flammable liquids and gas cylinders
- ✔ Prepare a fire emergency plan, make sure everyone on site knows what to do, and check that the arrangements work

Your learning journey

Duration

This course is **approximately 20 hours**, made up of a mixture of guided learning, assessment and independent research. You can split these hours up whichever way works best for you. You might be able to take 2-3 days to complete the course in one go, or alternatively you can fit study in around other commitments in your life.

From the date of enrolment, you'll have **12 months** to complete your course.

How is it delivered?

Our courses are designed to be delivered via self-directed, distance learning.

This means you can navigate through the course content in your learning portal online and study whenever and wherever works best for you.

Your learning journey

Course content

Our course syllabus ensures progressive learning, building from foundational principles to practical application. You will study 10 blocks that guide your development step by step.

Welcome	A welcome to the course, academic malpractice policies, and the fire safety landscape in England and Wales.
Why construction fires are different	Why a building is more vulnerable to fire while it's being built, what "low occurrence, high consequence" means, who could be harmed, and how to tell whether a site is complex.
How fire starts and spreads	What a fire needs to start, the sources of heat, fuel and oxygen on a normal site, the four ways fire spreads, and why smoke is often more dangerous than the flames.
The law and who's responsible	The main fire safety laws for construction sites, who the responsible person is, the fire safety duties of each CDM role, and who enforces what.
Fire risk assessment	The five-step method, what "suitable and sufficient" means, what to record, and why the assessment must keep pace with the build.
Controlling ignition sources	Designing out hot works, controlling them with permits and fire watches when they can't be avoided, and managing smoking, electrics, plant, batteries, bonfires and arson.

[Continued]

Controlling fuel	Reducing what can burn on site, storing flammable liquids and gas cylinders, protective coverings, scaffold sheeting, waste and skips.
General fire precautions	Escape routes and travel distances, stairs and fire doors, signs and lighting, compartmentation, alarms, detection and fire-fighting equipment.
Emergency procedures and people	The fire emergency plan, who does what, working with the fire and rescue service, inductions, drills and site cabins.
Higher-risk build methods	Timber frame and composite panels, on-site and off-site assessments, timber-frame categories and sites with several timber-frame buildings.
High-rise, refurbishment and occupied buildings	Working next to or inside occupied buildings, high-rise sites, refurbishment and historic buildings, and the 2018 fire at the Glasgow School of Art.
Assessment 1	
ID check	
Certificate	

Assessment

How will I be assessed?

NSA assessments are designed to reflect real life, and enable you to demonstrate the skills that are required in a workplace. They are designed to measure your understanding of key concepts, your ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations, and your critical thinking skills.

Our Fire Safety in Construction course consists of one assessment in total:

Assessment 1 | Assessment 1 | Knowledge test

The final knowledge test ensures the learner has understood the course contents and tests against the learning objectives.

Assessment

Completing your assessments

When you reach the relevant points in the course, you will be able to complete your assessments when you are ready from within the learning portal.

The timescales to complete each assessment are as follows:

Assessment 1	60 minutes

Grading and feedback

Assessment 1 will be marked instantly once you reach the end of the test. You will need to answer at least 80% of the questions correctly to pass. You can attempt it as many times as you need, with each resit charged at £15 + VAT.

> **We use a Pass/Refer grading system**
>
> This simply means:
>
> **Pass** – you've met all the assessment criteria.
> **Refer** – one or more of the assessment criteria was not met.

Assessment

Resubmissions

Remember, a ‘refer’ isn’t a fail – it’s an opportunity to refine your skills and knowledge so you can be even more effective in keeping people safe in real life.

You will recieve feedback on any parts of the assessment where you haven’t met the criteria. This feedback will clearly highlight the specific areas that need improvement, so you’ll know exactly where to return to the learning materials and review your understanding.

When you’re ready, you can resubmit your assessment at any time, after payment of the associated fee. For information on current fees, please review our Resubmission and Late Submission Policy.

Late submissions

We understand that sometimes things don’t go as planned. If you know you’re unable to submit your assessment on time, please let us know as soon as possible to discuss your options.

If your assessment is submitted late or not at all, it will be graded as a ‘Refer’. You will be issued with a new assessment scenario when you come to retake the assessment and will need to pay the appropriate fees. Please see our Resubmission and Late Submission Policy for more information and our current fees.

Certification

Once you have passed all of the required assessments, you will just need to complete our identity verification checks before your digital certificate is issued.

Hard copy certificates are available on request for a fee of £20 + VAT.

Support

What support will I receive?

Your learning journey will be supported with our digital workbook using real-life examples, case studies and videos. Our learning materials use everyday language that just makes sense – the first time you read it.

You will navigate through the course content in your learning portal online. To support your learning, you'll also have access to:

- ✔ Consolidation activities at the end of each block to test your understanding.
- ✔ Community forums to learn and share knowledge with your peers.
- ✔ Learner support team for queries around your enrolment, policies and procedures.

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Support

Our community

Our community is designed to be a supportive and collaborative environment. Connect with fellow safety professionals, share experiences, and ask questions. Parts of our community are open to everyone, while others are exclusive to course participants.

You will be automatically enrolled in the relevant areas of the community upon purchasing your course. Feel free to introduce yourself and start a conversation.