



# CONSTRUCTION PHASE CAPABILITIES

## Fire Safety Strategies and Fire Risk Assessments for Construction Sites

Trenton Fire are one of the largest, independent fire safety consultancies in the UK operating across all sectors. With a highly respected and experienced team of fire safety consultants Trenton Fire provide a high level of competency and capability, developing fire safety strategies for a range of projects across the UK and overseas.

### CONSTRUCTION PHASE

In the late 1980's, the number and cost incurred due to fires occurring on construction sites resulted in insurance companies questioning whether they would be able to economically continue offering protection to the sector. Modern fire safety guidance for construction developed both through a desire to reduce the number of casualties and fatalities due to fire, as well as due to pressure from insurers to address their concerns regarding spiralling costs.

Recent UK statistics indicate that despite construction site fires accounting for just 0.02% of fires each year, the resulting losses are often disproportionately high. Over a 10 year period, 108 major fires were recorded, resulting in an average loss of £1.7 million per fire<sup>1\*</sup>. When considering all fires across the UK, the Health and Safety Executive estimate that there are an average of 11 fires per day, costing the insurance industry around £400 million per year<sup>2\*</sup>.

In addition to satisfying the concerns of insurers, effectively controlling the risks associated with fire offers developers a number of benefits, including:

- Providing a safe place of work, minimising the danger posed to employees and assisting with the perception of the developer as a responsible employer.
- Minimising financial losses that may occur as a result of small uninsured fires, project delays or legal challenges.
- Minimising the likelihood of negative publicity and reputation harm that results following a major fire.

Fire safety on construction sites is enforced primarily under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, alongside the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Under these two legislative regimes, the lead developer would typically adopt the role of Principle Contractor (under CDM) and the Responsible Person (under RRO).

### BENEFITS OF APPOINTING A FIRE SAFETY CONSULTANT

At Trenton Fire we seek to assist the developer in fulfilling their duties under these roles. Particular benefits of our appointment would include:

- Assistance with the design and enactment of appropriate fire safety solutions. Modern buildings often contain fire engineered designs which are challenging to build in accordance with construction fire safety guidance (JCOP / HSG 168). Our engineers can develop practical, alternative fire safety solutions using performance-based methods.
- For each project, we would create a report documenting the fire safety strategy and periodical fire risk assessments for the site. This would provide the project management team with a single point of reference for fire safety information and, if desired, dissemination of the fire safety information to key site staff via CPD presentations.
- Over multiple projects, a standardised process, audit trail and level of quality would be provided. Data regarding all sites can be fed back to the developer, allowing analysis of any common faults or trends occurring to inform company-wide policies or actions.

1\* Construction Manager Issue- <http://www.constructionmanagermagazine.com/construction-professional/cpd-fire-prevention-construction-sites>

2\* Zurich document- <http://www.building.co.uk/journals/2014/03/25/y/a/d/Fire-Prevention-on-Construction-Sites.pdf>