

THIS JUNE, THINK FIRE PREVENTION

WHY IS FIRE PREVENTION IMPORTANT?

Fires are easily preventable but hard to control once they start. Fire prevention strategies help prevent death/injury, keep your buildings and research safe from damage/loss. It is key you do what is necessary to meet the current standards for fire safety, to ensure that you, others and your workplace are safe at the end of each day. If you need advice/information please contact hs-helpdesk@qmul.ac.uk who can direct you to our fire safety team, or contact Estates helpdesk if you find a fault.

WHAT SHOULD YOU AIM TO DO?

- Ensure that all escape routes, refuge areas and emergency exits are free from obstacles, including furniture, filing cabinets, electrical equipment, lockers etc.
- Check that your fire doors are in a good condition and in good working order.
- Ensure that fire doors are only left opened where appropriate e.g. automatic fire doors.
- Make sure that the correct assembly area is identified on fire action notices and these are posted up on the walls at appropriate locations that can be easily found.
- Ensure that at the fire point, all portable fire extinguishers and other equipment (e.g. fire blankets) are available (i.e. there are no missing fire extinguishers) and in good condition (i.e. there is no visible defect, damage, missing pins/tags etc.).
- Make sure that all fire extinguishers are easily accessible, regularly tested/maintained and have the appropriate signage.
- Make sure your area is free of obvious defects relating to fire safety e.g. poor fire-stopping, significant gaps around door frames; or fire doors that don't self-close.
- Ensure there is appropriate signage which indicates the nearest fire exit, and locations of all fire safety equipment.
- Put appropriate controls in place where naked flames/other heating equipment are used.

USEFUL TIPS

- Turn off all your appliances overnight, unless they are key to your work.
- Ensure you are maintaining your equipment (i.e. regular PAT testing where needed) and removing damaged equipment from use.
- Report any faults you see promptly – electrical safety is key to fire safety.
- Use only appropriate and authorised equipment – ignoring this could lead to use of appliances that could cause overloading of a circuit.
- Ensure and maintain a good housekeeping standard to prevent build-up of combustibles.
- Click [here](#) for more information, and make sure staff in your area have completed their fire safety awareness training on QMPlus.