

Our ref: ACFO/BCB/PJW/2022



To Whom it May Concern

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service
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Dear Sir/Madam

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM WARWICKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (WFRS)

Possible Industrial Action by UK Fire and Rescue Services

There is currently an increased likelihood of industrial action by Firefighters across the Country. Whilst Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service have a robust business continuity plan in place, it is unlikely that we will be able to provide the standard of operational response you currently receive during a period of strike action.

Therefore, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are advising you to consider the effect that this may have on your business and to plan accordingly. This will allow you to reduce the impact that an emergency incident will have on your business and employees during this time. We are advising you to review current work practices and ensure a robust business continuity plan is in place before any strike action is undertaken. We further recommend you re-assess your current Fire Risk Assessment and focus on prevention of fire and consider how to reduce its affect should an incident take place. For example, you may want to consider reducing/stopping high fire risk business activities during industrial action to minimise the likelihood of a fire occurring, or to consider training a greater number of staff in first aid firefighting techniques.

Your Fire Risk Assessment should also include identification of arson risks and ways in which to mitigate this issue. Once you've identified where you may be particularly vulnerable, for example poor housekeeping or a build-up of rubbish stored externally, put an action plan in place to prevent these issues from continuing. In doing so this will assist in protecting your business, your employees, your premises and the service you provide to the community.

Continued...
.../Page 2.

For those of you who carry out hazardous processes, please be aware that specialist Fire Service appliances may not be readily available during this time and you may want to consider local emergency pollution control arrangements for dealing with spillages of chemicals and other contaminants.

*"You are reminded that the person(s) responsible for buildings are required to carry out a fire risk assessment to include an emergency evacuation plan for all people likely to be in the premises, including people with disabilities, and to implement the evacuation plan, when required. Such an evacuation plan should **not**, at any time, rely upon the intervention of the Fire and Rescue Service.*

For additional advice in protecting your business you may want to visit the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue website at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firesafety>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Briggs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barnaby Briggs
Assistant Chief Fire Officer