Fire and Rescue Service strike action

_The Fire and Rescue services have announced strike action to take place on selected dates as specified in the email accompanying this bulletin._

In order to mitigate the increased risk during any strike period the University asks that you take the following action:

Review fire safety and arrangements in your areas of control and plan to reduce risk as far as reasonably practicable:

a) Reduce the likelihood of a fire, for example by removing or controlling ignition sources and switching off all unnecessary electrical equipment etc. High risk activities, such as use of naked flame, hot works, and certain large events* will be stopped during strike periods unless a strong case is made in a specific risk assessment that they are extremely well controlled.

b) Also plan to reduce other risks which could result in the need for Fire and Rescue Service assistance, such as use or storage of hazardous materials, use of heavy machinery.

c) Where possible, reduce fuel load (flammable materials, gas containers etc.).

d) Clear any flammable materials, obstructions etc. from corridors and staircases.

e) Double check that you have sufficient evacuation stewards.

f) Encourage staff to be extra vigilant and report fire safety concerns.

*If strike action is planned for a day when you are planning a large event, please contact the fire safety officer for advice.

For further advice on fire safety during strike action please contact the fire safety officer, email fire@essex.ac.uk, tel. 01206 874847