



The law concerning fire safety in all golf clubs is undergoing a major review.

The new legislation, which came into effect in October 2006, is basically a re-working of the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997.

Responsibility for complying with the new legislation will rest with the "Responsible Person" - In a golf club this will normally be the Captain or any other person who has been delegated the control of the premises.

FIRE SAFETY DUTIES

The "Responsible Person" must where necessary put general fire precautions in place to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of any employees and others e.g. members, visitors, or contractors. The Responsible Person must appoint one or more competent persons to assist in undertaking any control measures to reduce the level of risk from fire.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The basis for deciding what fire precautions are required is a fire risk assessment. This risk assessment must consider those persons who are on the premises or anyone in the immediate vicinity of those premises who would be at risk from a fire. Excluded from this are fire-fighters carrying out their duties. The risk assessment should identify the combustible materials present, potential sources of ignition and the control measures required to reduce the risk of fire to a minimum.

Where more than five people are employed the risk assessment must be documented.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Where there are dangerous substances present e.g. highly flammable liquids and gases, large volumes of volatile liquids e.g. butane gas cylinders, large stocks of acetone, alcohol based liquids and aerosols etc, the risk assessment must consider the risks from these substances and they must either be eliminated or reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.

In deciding upon control measures to reduce the level of risk, there are certain fundamental principles of prevention.

- (a) Avoid the risks, i.e. can you stop doing the activity that may cause a fire?
- (b) Evaluate the risks which cannot be avoided. Are they likely to happen and what would be their outcome?
- (c) Combat the risks at source. Install control measures to prevent fire.
- (d) Replace the dangerous substance if possible by a non-dangerous or less dangerous substance e.g. water based materials rather than solvent based.
- (e) Develop a coherent overall fire prevention policy that covers the personnel, activities and organisation of working environment.
- (f) Give collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures.
- (g) Provide appropriate instructions to employees on how to raise the alarm, evacuation of the premises, use of fire extinguishers etc.

The responsible person must make fire safety arrangements, depending on the size and nature of the undertaking which will plan, organise, control, monitor and review the preventative and protective measures decided upon from the risk assessment.

FIRE SAFETY PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Where necessary to safeguard relevant persons, the responsible person must:

- Provide appropriate fire fighting equipment
- Provide fire/smoke detectors and alarms as appropriate
- Nominate competent persons to implement these measures
- Arrange necessary contacts with external emergency services
- Ensure that routes to emergency exits are kept clear
- Emergency exits are able to be opened during the working day
- Establish appropriate evacuation procedures, including drills, in the event of serious and imminent danger and nominate competent persons to implement these.

For further advice on the new regulations and on any aspect of your fire risk assessment, please call the Xact Technical Team on: 0845 665 3006.

HOBBIES

GI has begun a new feature, finding out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time. Here's something you didn't know about me...

Name: Sean McDade

Age: 39

Club: Sandwell Park

Hobby: Is it Angling, Fishing, or Poaching?

How and when did you get introduced to fishing?

I don't really remember when, as apparently the first time I went fishing was at six months old, four months after leaving hospital. (I was two months premature, 40 years ago). Fishing was, and still is the reason for the locations of my holidays.

Father taught me to fish the upstream worm method as soon as I was old enough to ride a bike to the local streams. Then came the day the local Bobby felt my collar while poaching the rich American's estate, and took me home to face father's wrath. As father served dinner he fixed me with the evil eye and scowled across the table "Sean that was very stupid of you. Don't you DARE get caught next time" - I know he was content if I was doing no greater harm with my idle hours than giving an absentee American's neglected trout a touch of toothache.

What is it about fishing that appeals to you?

The wonder of the natural world and its diversity and the way such is interacted and combined. Without a type of soil there are no plants, thus no insects, no fish, no birds or my favourite, wild otters. Until five years ago I'd never seen a wild fresh water otter. I have now been privileged to experience such twice. On both occasions I was fishing for wild trout or sea trout/salmon. I shall now sight the last time I experienced such. I was returning from a sea trout fishing holiday in North Wales and while returning home crossed over a river bridge on the upper R. Severn, had to stop and look, all true/sad anglers do this, and it is part of the religion. There's no one about and I will put them back anyway. I now gain greater satisfaction from helping trout in whatever guise recover and be there to spawn. While fishing this river very quietly I became aware of something above me moving downstream towards me - an otter, it stopped 10 yards from me on the same bank, looked at me as if to say "we are no threat to each other, we are both at the same thing" and we were. I enjoyed watching the otter for 10 minute's right in front of me. You cannot buy that mutual understanding from a wild animal. I stopped fishing and lay back in the bank and enjoyed a very rare sight indeed.

Have you entered any competitions or do you intend to do so?

I have for the last five years I've organised an annual angling event for the BIGGA Midland Section. Which has, on the whole, been a success. Sponsorship has provided prizes of £50 and a fine buffet. I have never been a match angler, fishing to me is more about escapism, and the contest is between me, the fish, the river, and the interaction of the truly wild and wonderful within our beautiful country. Miss it at your loss.

I have enjoyed fishing throughout all of Britain, Germany, Austria and Iceland, but my favourite is without doubt the north east of Cumbria.

