AVON FIRE & RESCUE

Avon Fire & Rescue Service was called out to

5,831 false alarms last year*

at businesses

LIKE YOURS

From the 1st April, Avon Fire & Rescue Service will no longer send fire engines to automatic fire alarms triggered at business premises such as offices, shops and factories until a fire is confirmed.

AF&RS is changing how it responds to unwanted fire alarm signals. A new procedure will be introduced and will mean the automatic response to some alarms will be removed.

If an automatic call is received from an Alarm Receiving Company (ARC) a response will not be automatically made.

Instead attendance will only be made if a key holder can confirm that there is an actual fire.

The service will still respond to alarms in domestic premises, sleeping accommodation and high risk premises.

* During the financial year 2018/19

What is the cost of false alarms TO 👉 YOUR business?

You may be losing money due to:

Downtime for evacuations

Disruption to productivity

Disruption to customers

Cost to your reputation:
- Projects image of complacency about safety
- Loss of confidence in fire safety controls and fire service

It is estimated that the total cost of false alarms to UK BUSINESSES is over > £1 BILLION a year

Every time firefighters
go to a false alarm
it means they are NOT AVAILABLE
to help people who might really need them
AT AN EMERGENCY

You should act now and ensure you have an effective investigation procedure:

- Review your alarm management strategy. Do you have a delayed alarm so that you can investigate the cause before calling the Fire Service?

- Ensure regular maintenance of your fire alarm.

- Ensure you have a suitable number of responsible people and key holders who can attend the premises out of hours.

- If you are linked to an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) ensure they have the correct contact details for the premises, opening hours and the key holder's details.

- Investigate all false alarms and look at what you can do to stop them happening again.

- Put in place a strategy to investigate the cause of the activation the moment it happen so that your staff can quickly identify false alarms, reset the system and return to work.

If you would like to read more about how to reduce false fire alarms and the legislation visit:

www.avonfire.gov.uk/business-safety

The most common causes of **false alarms** are:

Testing

Fire alarm being tested without notifying the call centre.

Fumes

Steam, aerosols and other fumes activating the detectors.

Cooking
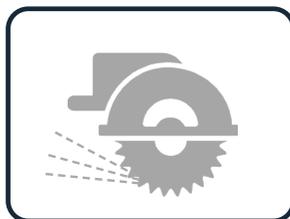
Cooking fumes, such as burnt toast.

Humidity

Humidity and temperature changes.

Smoking

Smoking near detectors.

Contractors

Contractors working below live or uncovered detectors.