Churches CFS
FIRE & SECURITY

CASE STUDY

FIRE SAFETY IN HERITAGE AND LISTED BUILDINGS

Protecting a Grade I listed National Trust Property

FIRE SAFETY SERVICES PROVIDED

- FIRE ALARM
- ASPIRATING SYSTEM

THE PROJECT

A Grade I listed Gothic style, Victorian house and estate which in 2002 got put in the care of the National Trust.

Due to being a listed building, having an extremely intricate interior, with high ceilings, a specialist fire alarm system was designed to ensure there would be detection of the earliest signs of fire in this property. An aspirating system was installed in the main hall / lobby area due to the high ceilings mentioned above. These systems work to accurately detect fire in the earliest stages by constantly sampling the air for traces of smoke particles.

A fire alarm panel with devices such as call points and detectors have also been installed throughout the house where possible. We had to work closely with a team of building specialists to ensure that we were able to cover the property sufficiently whilst not damaging any of the spectacular coving covering the ceilings.

A monitored intruder alarm and CCTV system have also been installed to protect the property. Due to the age of the building and the contents, criminals may look to target such a place. Having the monitoring on the intruder alarm means that the police will be contacted and attend in the event of an alarm activation.

WHY IS FIRE SAFETY SO IMPORTANT AT THESE SITES?

Fire safety is always so important but can vary in reasons. Most of the time fire safety measures are put in place to ensure safety to occupiers such as workers or residents of a building.

For some business' or for listed properties, very special systems which can detect very early signs of fire are required to keep both the occupants and the property safe. Fire alarm and detection systems need to be custom designed to detect fire / smoke at the earliest opportunity and the quickest response from the authorities.

When many of these listed properties would have been built, fire safety would not have been a big consideration. Many of these buildings will have large open spaces, expansive wooden architrave and interior. Whilst this décor is beautiful and fitting for the time, it can be extremely flammable should a fire start.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WHEN MAKING THESE PROPERTIES FIRE SAFE?

These types of buildings can present all sorts of challenges when making them fire safe. Balancing the preservation and aesthetics with fire safety is essential.

Modern buildings are designed with safety and fire safety in mind. Back when these listed properties were designed and built there would have been little consideration for fire safety. The materials used are far more combustible and the design of the building can make it even less fire safe. Large open spaces can mean that fires can spread quickly within as well as big voids were fires could potentially go undetected.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

The importance of protecting our customer's buildings, tenants, and employees is paramount to our commitment to providing a high-quality service. Our fire protection solutions deliver:

- Technology-enabled communications
- Transparency and visibility through our customer portal
- Swift rectification of issues
- Monthly customer meetings
- A responsive & dedicated account handler
- Fire safety compliance and assurance

As with any property, Fire Risk Assessments should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant in keeping the building fire safe. Action should be taken if any changes are made, including the following:

- The property is being used more frequently or rooms have changed use
- Any additional areas of the property are being used
- Storage of items has changed

Any changes could mean increased risk of fire and should not be ignored. Additionally, fire detection systems should be regularly maintained and reviewed to ensure that they are working effectively to protect the property.