



**QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION**

# **DIPLOMA IN FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

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# WELCOME

## WHO ARE NATIONAL SAFETY ACADEMY?

Welcome to National Safety Academy – we're glad to have you here!

National Safety Academy is an innovative training provider offering courses and qualifications for safety professionals.

It's important to us that education is accessible. Not just in terms of cost, but also in the way it is delivered.

Learning shouldn't be a battle with complicated textbook paragraphs. It shouldn't be dry powerpoint slides. It shouldn't be technical information without real-life context. It shouldn't be commitment to classroom dates, time away from work and family, and fixed exam schedules.

Instead, National Safety Academy believe learning should feel natural and engaging. It should be challenging, but in all the right ways. It should be comfortably balanced with personal and professional life. Most importantly, it should prepare and assess the learner in way which reflects their real-life responsibilities outside of a learning environment.

It's your education, so do it your way.

Enjoy!

## ABOUT THE QUALIFICATION

This qualification has been developed to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively assess fire risks in a variety of settings.

Our courses are designed to take you on a learning journey. You'll always learn from first principles, so expect to come away understanding and being able to explain the why and how - as well as the what.

<b>Level</b>	SCQF Level 10
<b>Credits</b>	41 Credits
<b>Duration</b>	410 Hours

The Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment has been credit rated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority at Level 10 SCQF, which is equivalent to Level 6 RQF in England and Wales.

This means that completion of the qualification meets the academic requirements to apply for the highest tier of membership with the IFE (Member) and IFSM (Member), although it is subject to your experience in the field too.

This qualification has been designed in alignment with the competencies outlined in BS 8674. It addresses all of the knowledge requirements specified in the Standard, from Foundation through to Advanced level. While the qualification also introduces some of the related skills and behaviours, many of these can only be fully developed and demonstrated through practical experience and real-world application.

## WHO IS THIS QUALIFICATION FOR?

The NSA Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment is for individuals who have responsibility for carrying out the fire risk assessment in multiple premises or premises which are low, moderate or high fire risk in the UK.

These individuals might include:

- Fire safety consultants
- In-house fire risk assessors
- Safety professionals
- Building or facilities managers
- Building designers or architects

This qualification would also benefit anyone looking to better understand the principles that underpin the provision of fire safety precautions.

## WHO IS THIS QUALIFICATION NOT SUITABLE FOR?

This qualification alone is unlikely to provide sufficient knowledge to carry out the fire risk assessment for very high risk premises, or be suitable for those with complex fire safety engineering responsibilities, or those designing and prescribing the fire safety strategy in a new building.

Whilst this qualification will provide a knowledge base enabling the learner to go on to carry out these responsibilities in the future, further study and experience would certainly be required before they would be considered competent to do so.

# YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the qualification, you will be able to:

### **Understand and apply fire safety principles to a range of situations.**

Learners must develop a comprehensive understanding of foundational fire safety principles, including fire dynamics, human behaviour in fire scenarios, and the legislation which underpins the approach to fire safety in England and Wales. This knowledge will be applied across a variety of complex environments, requiring learners to analyse unique challenges, interpret applicable standards, and devise appropriate solutions.

### **Evaluate fire safety measures and make recommendations and justifications on how to improve them.**

Learners will assess existing preventive and protective measures, identify weaknesses or gaps, and suggest reasonable additional control measures where necessary. This process includes considering the impact of their recommendations on life safety and operational continuity.

### **Justify and communicate recommended fire risk controls considering any legislative, financial and operational impacts.**

Learners must provide reasoned arguments for their chosen fire risk controls, ensuring that recommendations align with legal requirements, fit within budgetary constraints, and support operational objectives. This requires the ability to influence stakeholders and present information in a clear, professional manner.

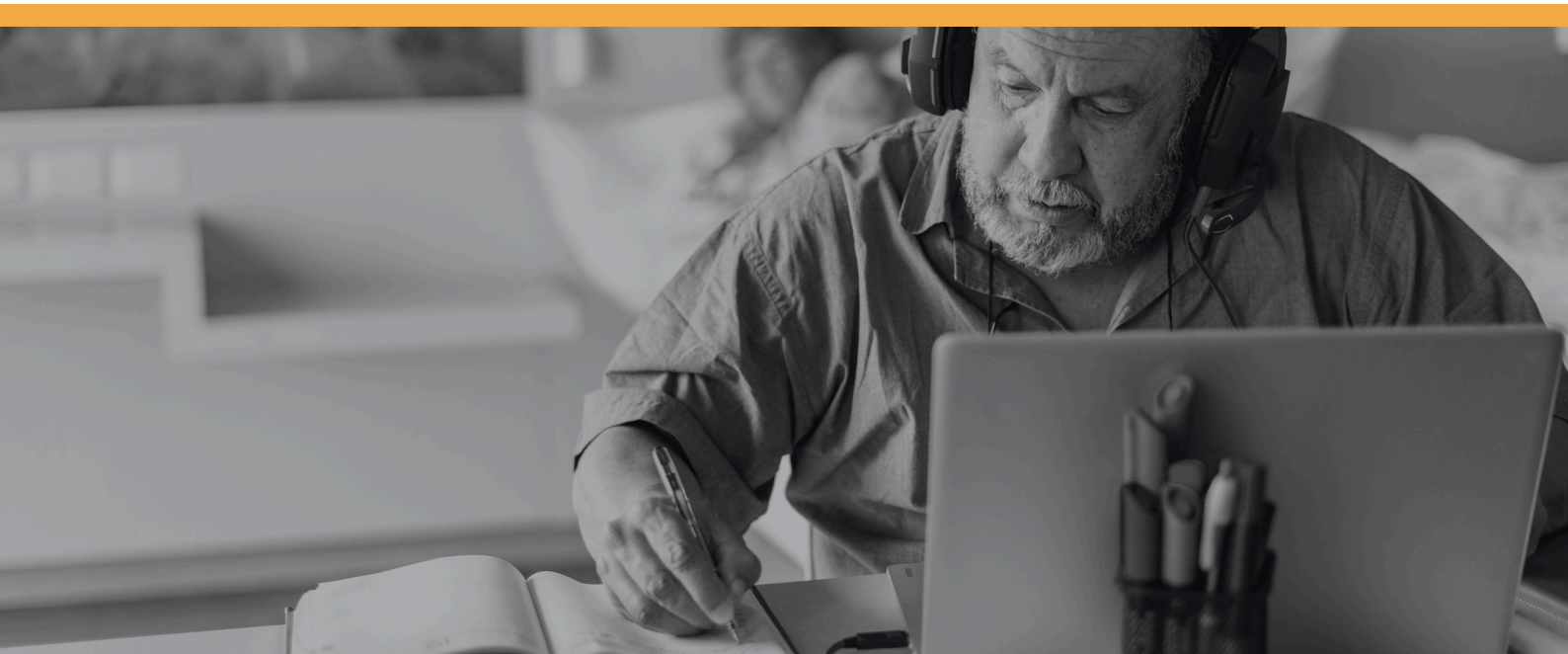
## LEARNING OUTCOMES (CONT.)

### **Demonstrate a sound technical understanding of fire precautions.**

Learners will be expected to show a deep understanding of the technical aspects of fire precautions, such as fire alarm systems, fire suppression, compartmentation, and egress strategies. This includes being able to explain how these measures function individually and as part of a cohesive system to reduce risk.

### **Demonstrate commitment to development of competency in line with current professional standards.**

Fire safety is a constantly evolving field which requires a commitment to lifelong learning and development of competency over time. Learners will understand the meaning of competency and how it relates to them as a professional. They must demonstrate their dedication to staying informed about industry advancements, changes in legislation and standards, and professional best practices.



# YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

## CONTENT

Our qualification syllabus ensures progressive learning, building from foundational principles to practical application. You will study two units, each comprised of blocks that guide your development step by step.

### UNIT 1 | PRINCIPLES OF FIRE SAFETY

Starting with an understanding of fire safety law and the science of fire, you will progressively build knowledge on how fire impacts buildings and the people within them.

#### **Block 1 | Foundations of Fire Safety Law**

Understand the key elements of fire safety law, including the duties of the Responsible Person and consequences of non-compliance.

#### **Block 2 | The Process of Combustion**

Learn the science of fire, ignition sources, and factors affecting combustion and fire spread.

#### **Block 3 | Fire Behaviour**

Understand how fire develops in buildings, the impact of construction on fire behaviour, and the influence of some protective measures.

#### **Block 4 | Human Behaviour**

Predict human reactions to fire and apply models for safe escape, focusing on factors that influence escape time.

#### **Block 5 | Evacuation Strategies**

Evaluate and implement appropriate evacuation strategies based on specific scenarios and occupant needs.



## UNIT 2 | FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

You'll learn to apply fire safety principles in real-world contexts, understanding how complex building features may present risks and how to ensure safe escape routes in both simple and multi-storey structures.

### **Block 6 | Fire Prevention**

Apply prevention principles and recommend control measures to manage and reduce fire risk to acceptable levels.

### **Block 7 | Fire Protection**

Learn the roles of active and passive fire protection systems and the responsibilities for maintaining them.

### **Block 8 | Means of Escape I**

Assess escape adequacy in single-storey premises and mitigate risks associated with inner rooms and dead-end conditions.

### **Block 9 | Means of Escape II**

Evaluate escape routes in two-storey premises and identify potential risks related to stairways, exits, and flow of occupants.

### **Block 10 | Means of Escape III**

Assess multi-storey escape strategies in buildings with complex features such as mezzanines and basements.

### **Block 11 | Fire Safety Management**

Evaluate fire safety management systems, emergency plans, and provide compliance guidance to duty holders.

### **Block 12 | Becoming a Fire Risk Assessor**

Understand the evolving nature of fire safety law and the importance of ongoing professional development for fire risk assessors.

## DURATION

This course is approximately 410 hours (equivalent to 41 SCQF credits) which are made up of a mixture of guided learning, assessment, and independent research. You can split these hours up whichever way works best for you. You might be able to take 10 to 12 working weeks to complete the qualification in one go, or alternatively you can fit study in around other commitments in your life.

From the date of enrolment, you'll have 12 months to complete your qualification.

## HOW IS IT DELIVERED?

Our courses are designed to be delivered via self-directed, distance learning. This means you can navigate through the course content in your learning portal online or, if you'd prefer, purchase a study book so you can work through a physical copy.

Either way, you get to study whenever and wherever works best for you!



# SUPPORT

## WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

Your learning journey will be supported with real-life examples, case studies, videos, e-learning and more. Our learning materials use everyday language that just makes sense – the first time you read it.

You will navigate through the course content in your learning portal online.

To support your learning, you'll also have access to:

- 7-day-a-week tutor support via email and our forums.
- Consolidation activities at the end of each block to test your understanding.
- Community forums to learn and share knowledge with your peers.
- Learner support team for queries around your enrolment, policies and procedures.

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## OUR COMMUNITY

Our community is designed to be a supportive and collaborative environment. Connect with fellow safety professionals, share experiences, and ask questions. Parts of our community are open to everyone, while others are exclusive to course participants.

You will be automatically enrolled in the relevant areas of the community upon purchasing your qualification. Feel free to introduce yourself and start a conversation!

# ASSESSMENT

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

NSA assessments are designed to reflect real life, and enable you to demonstrate the skills that are required in a workplace. They are designed to measure your understanding of key concepts, your ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations, and your critical thinking skills.

The Diploma in Fire Risk Assessment consists of three assessments in total.

### **Assessment 1 | Giving advice**

Respond to a series of emails from clients asking for fire safety advice. This assessment has a two-week deadline from the date of request.

### **Assessment 2 | Upholding fire precautions**

Explain deficiencies in preventive and protective systems at a client's premises. Produce a written report along with an audio clip of your executive summary for the client. This assessment has a four-week deadline from the date of request.

### **Assessment 3 | Fire risk assessment**

Complete a fire risk assessment of a moderate risk premises in a real-life simulation. This assessment has a six-week deadline from the date of request.

## COMPLETING YOUR ASSESSMENTS

When you feel ready to complete an assessment, you will be able to download your assignment from the learning portal. You will be given a realistic scenario and a task to complete which you'll need to submit before the deadline.

The timescales to complete each assessment is as follows:

<b>Assessment 1</b>	2 weeks
<b>Assessment 2</b>	4 weeks
<b>Assessment 3</b>	6 weeks

## GRADING AND FEEDBACK

Our team of assessors will aim to mark your assessment and provide feedback within **10 working days**, which you'll be able to access through your learning portal.

We use a Pass/Refer grading system. This simply means:

- Pass: You've met all the assessment criteria – great job!
- Refer: One or more of the assessment criteria was not met.





## RESUBMISSIONS

Remember, a 'refer' isn't a fail – it's an opportunity to refine your skills and knowledge so you can be even more effective in keeping people safe in real life.

Your assessor will provide feedback on any parts of the assessment where you haven't fully met the criteria. This feedback will clearly highlight the specific areas that need improvement, so you'll know exactly where to return to the learning materials and review your understanding.

When you're ready, you can resubmit your assessment at any time, after payment of the associates fees. Be sure to review our resubmission policy for detailed instructions on this process and our current fees.

## LATE SUBMISSIONS

We understand that sometimes things don't go as planned. If you know you're unable to submit your assessment on time, please let us know as soon as possible to discuss your options.

If your submission is submitted late or not at all, it will be graded as a 'Refer'. You will be issued with a new assessment scenario when you come to retake the assessment and will need to pay the appropriate fees. Please refer to our resubmission and late submission policy for more information and our current fees.

## CERTIFICATION

Once you have passed all of the required assessments, you will just need to complete our identity verification checks before your digital certificate is issued. Following successful completion, you will receive your hard copy certificate within 4 weeks.

