



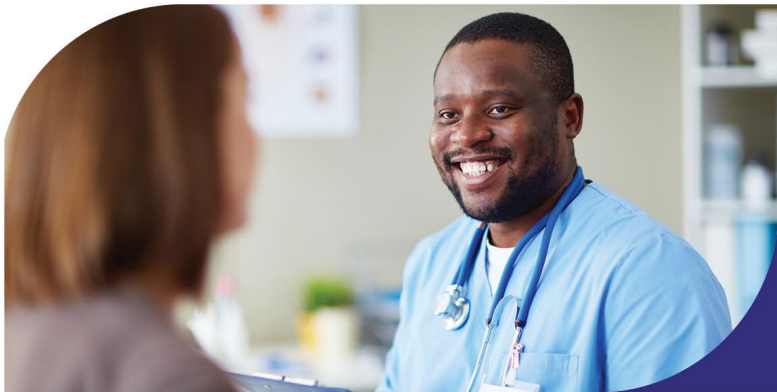
**HSA**

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

# “Workplace Fire”

NAME: Thomas Doyle BSc AEng MI(Fire)E

DATE: 15-May-2026



# Fires at workplaces



Fire at a recycling centre in Park West Industrial Estate, Dublin on 22-Sep-2025



Fire at a Tycor Business Park, Waterford 09-May-2026

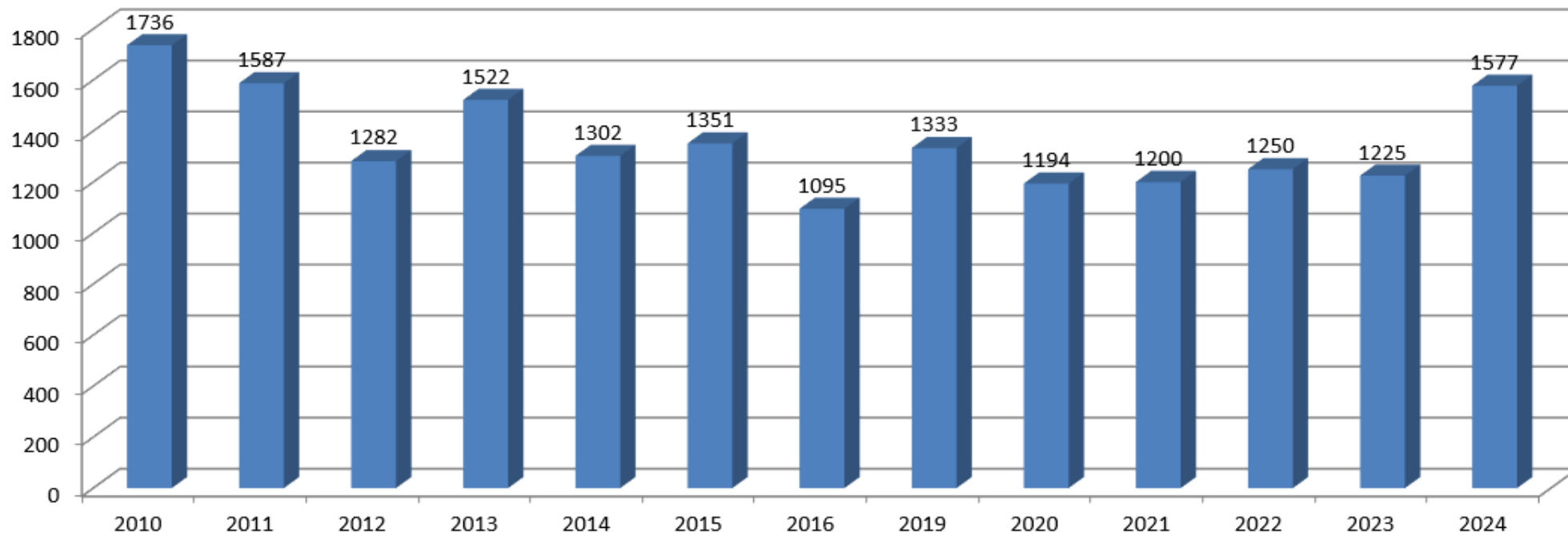
# Background

- Fire safety legislation in Ireland can be divided into three distinct phases for all buildings/premises:
  1. The design phase
  2. The construction phase
  3. The **occupied building** phase
- The role of the HSA in respect of fire safety, is **restricted** to life-safety in;
  1. **Occupied buildings** which are workplaces
  2. **Construction sites**
- The primary piece of legislation governing fire safety in all **occupied** buildings (3) in Ireland is The Fire Service Acts 1981-2003, enforced by authorised officers of the Fire & Rescue Authority.
- In addition for occupied buildings which are workplaces, the Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005, enforced by HSA Inspectors, applies
- Finally for occupied buildings which are designated centres, the Health Act 2007 enforced by HIQA applies

# Workplace fires

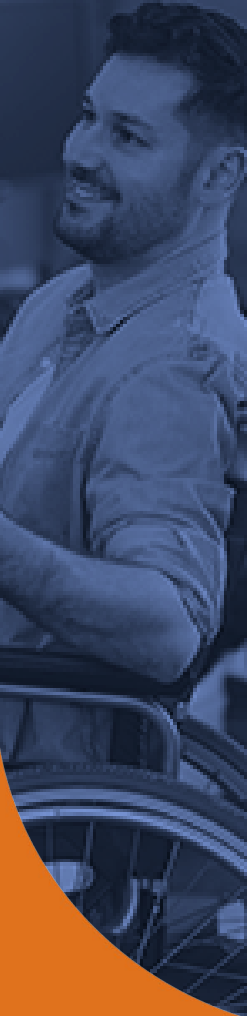
- Fire Authorities turnout to circa 20 thousand fire events in Ireland every year, of which circa 1350 (7%) are workplaces.
- Agricultural buildings, outdoor storage and factories are highest workplace presenters.

**Workplace Fires 2010-2024**



# The 2005 Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act requires Employers/PICs:

- **Section 8:** to provide safe place of work, safe plant & machinery and manage and conduct work activities in such a way as to ensure the safety health and welfare at work of employees
- **Section 10:** to provide information, instruction, training and supervision (including fire safety)
- **Section 11:** Emergencies, an emergency plan is prepared
- **Section 19:** be in possession of a proactive written risk assessment (where fire is identified as an occupational hazard)



# The 2007 General Application regulations





An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

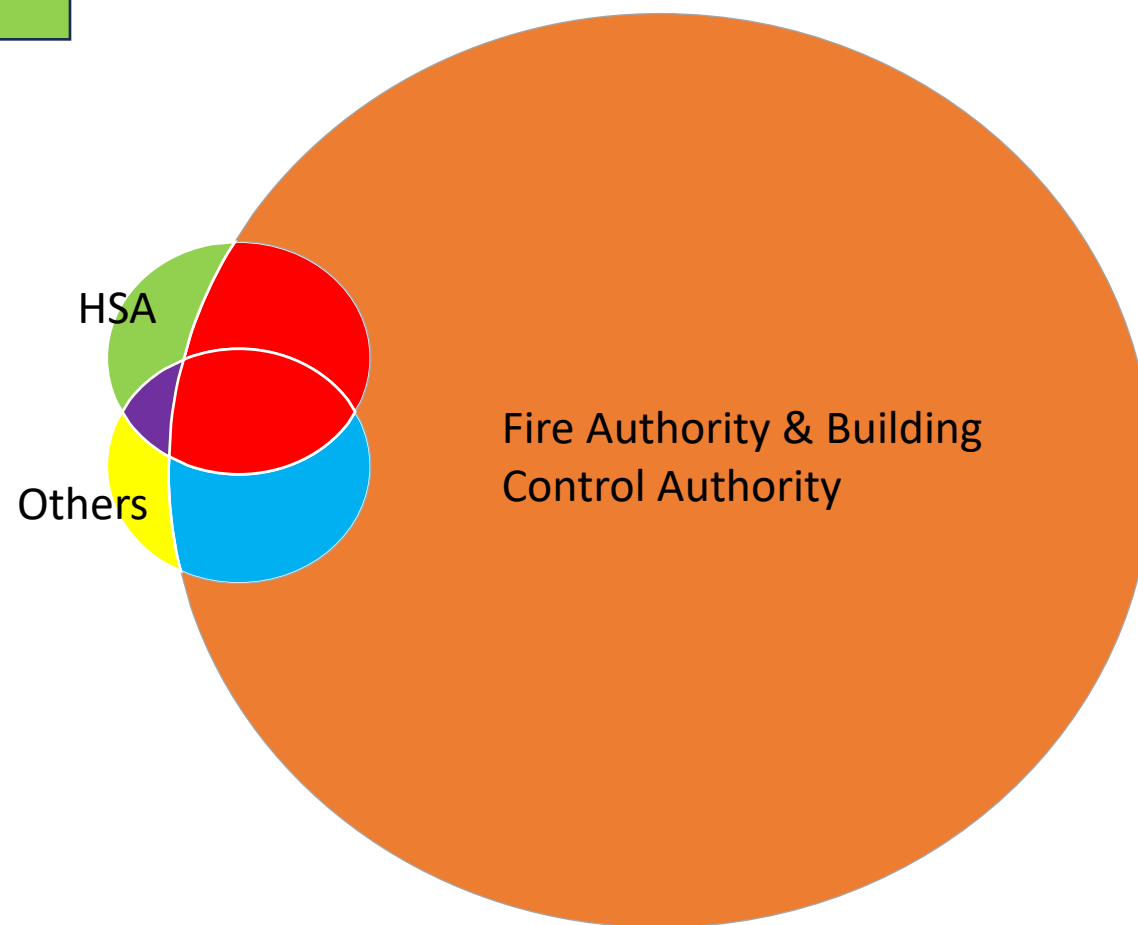
- **Regulation 12:** Emergency routes and exits provided, are not locked/obstructed and are kept clear at all times.
- **Regulation 13:** The fire detection and alarm system provided must be appropriate. Both fire detection and fire fighting equipment shall be inspected, maintained and serviced by a competent person.
- **Regulation 160** requires “Safety signs” including:
  - Fire-fighting equipment on rectangular “Red” background with white symbol identifying the type of equipment
  - Emergency escape on rectangular “Green” background with white pictogram identifying exit routes and exits
- **Regulation 225** “Reporting of accidents and Dangerous Occurrences”, requires employers to notify the Authority of the following dangerous occurrences:
  - A fire occurring in any place of work which resulted in the stoppage / suspension of normal work for more than 24 hours
  - An unintentional explosion occurring in any plant or place of work
- **Regulation 169** “Explosive atmospheres”, requires employers to:
  - prepare written risk assessments (RAs) where explosive atmospheres are or are likely to be present
  - prepare an explosion protection document (EPD)

# Process Fire Precautions (PFPs)

- Use of work equipment
- Electricity
- Storage, use, disposal of dangerous substances
- Hotworks (e.g. Welding, Cutting, heating, cooking, drying, naked flames etc.)
- Bulk and portable pressurised cylinders
- ATEX

## Regulators

- Overlapping interests (FRA) 
- Remaining HSA responsibilities 



# Shared areas of interest

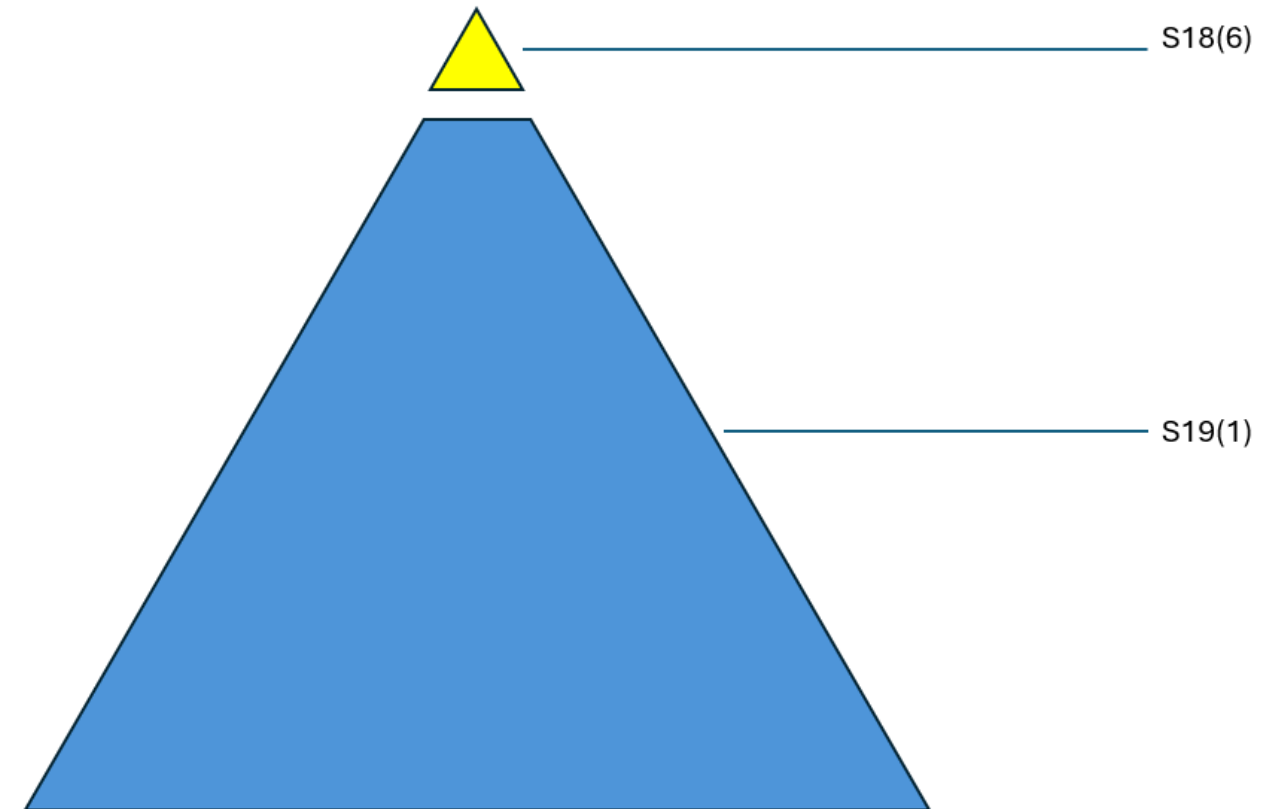


An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

<u>Specific requirements</u>	<u>Health &amp; Safety Authority</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<b>Provision of safe Place of Work</b>	Section 8	Compliance with <a href="#">S18(2) guide</a> meets S8 OSH
<b>Instruction &amp; training</b>	Section 10	Compliance with FSA S18(2) guide meets S10 OSH
<b>Emergency Plan "Fire"</b>	Section 11	Compliance with FSA S18(2) guide meets S11 OSH
<b>Emergency routes and exits</b>	Regulation 12	Compliance with FSA S18(2) guide meets R12 OSH
<b>Appropriate fire-fighting equipment</b>	Regulation 13	Compliance with FSA S18(2) guide meets R13 OSH
<b>Safety Signs</b>	Regulation 160	S19(1)(f) only calls for "Fire Notice"
<b>Reporting "Fire" incidents and DOs</b>	Regulation 225	
<b>Construction phase</b>	Construction Regulations	
<b>PFPs (Fire hazard)</b>	Regulation 169 et al GARs	
<b>Proactive written Risk Assessment "Fire"</b>	Section 19	RAs based on FSA S18(2) guidance supplemented with HSA primacy requirements

# Proactive S19(1) written risk assessment (Fire) & Reactive S18(6) fire safety assessments

- **HSA S19(1) BeSmart Fire checklist**
  - 366,000 business in Ireland (CSO), not including farms
  - Proactive requirement (normative)
  - Scope: DHLGH S18(2) guidance template and BeSmart
  - Author: Competent person
  - **When completed would not meet the S18(6) FSA requirement**
- **FSA S18(6) COP 2022:**
  - \*Reactive requirement
  - Scope: Comprehensive template provided in 2022 COP, based on Building Regulations Part B and Fire Services Act Part 3
  - Author: Registered Architect / Registered Surveyor / Chartered Engineer
  - **When completed fully meets the S19(1) SHWWA requirement for GFPs**



# In Summary





# HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta  
Health and Safety Authority

Go raibh maith agaibh  
Thank you

E: [thomas\\_doyle@hsa.ie](mailto:thomas_doyle@hsa.ie)

W: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

