

CHAPTER VII

Provisions on Safety Matters



Section B

FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Promulgation Date: 15 April 2012
Technical Review: 1 May 2017
**Promulgation of
Revised Policy:** 17 February 2025

A. Introduction

1. Fires can occur at any United Nations premises¹, impacting personnel, property and assets and affecting programme delivery. Therefore, it is necessary to have guidance on appropriate measures to address fire incidents.
2. United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) organizations have varying capacities, structures and guidance to manage safety risks. As fire hazards are a safety issue, the UNSMS Fire Risk Management Policy is adaptable to each UNSMS organization's approach to safety.
3. To ensure consistent United Nations wide goals while addressing varying capacities, the UNSMS Fire Risk Management Policy is aligned with the United Nations Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Framework (CEB/2015/HLCM/7/Rev.2, 31 March 2015), which encourages United Nations organizations to develop and engage in comprehensive safety risk management, including risks from fire.
4. The UNSMS Fire Risk Management Policy is intended to align with host Government safety regulations and supplement them, where necessary.

B. Scope

5. The UNSMS Fire Risk Management Policy provides principles-based guidance for UNSMS organizations to manage both intentional and non-intentional fire incidents at United Nations premises.
6. The intent of this policy is to:
 - a) Save lives and protect the well-being of UNSMS personnel;
 - b) Protect United Nations premises and assets from fire.
7. Technical objectives of this policy include:
 - a) Enabling each UNSMS organization to integrate this policy with their existing OHS/safety risk management process;
 - b) Delineating roles and responsibilities of UNSMS security professionals in addressing fire risks;
 - c) Aligning these roles and responsibilities with relevant United Nations policies related to the protection of United Nations personnel from workplace hazards.²

C. Applicability

8. This policy applies to:
 - a) All UNSMS organizations as well as individuals participating in the UNSMS as defined in Chapter III of the UNSMS Security Policy Manual ("Applicability of the United Nations Security Management System");

¹ UNSMS *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter IV, Section E, "Security of UN Premises". United Nations premises are defined as "all categories of land and physical areas that are occupied by the organizations of the United Nations Security Management System, including structures such as buildings, offices, warehouses, stores, shops, dwellings, containers, prefabs, and tents."

² High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Framework.

- b) United Nations premises, which is defined as all categories of land and physical areas that are utilized or occupied by the organizations of the UNSMS, including structures such as buildings, offices, warehouses, stores, shops, dwellings, containers, prefabs, and tents.

D. Means of Fire Risk Management

- 9. Every United Nations premises should seek to have a fire risk management plan to achieve the technical objectives listed above and to implement the following to manage fire risks:
 - a) Means to detect a fire
 - b) Means to have preventative controls on fire ignition and containment
 - c) Means to alert occupants of a fire outbreak
 - d) Means to escape
 - e) Means to mitigate impacts of a fire
- 10. The application and implementation of these means at United Nations premises will vary depending on:
 - a) Presence of UNSMS personnel
 - b) Procedures and UN organization capacity related to OHS management functions³
 - c) Host country fire standards and capacity
 - d) Construction type
 - e) Infrastructure
 - f) Other local conditions

E. Fire Risk Management Responsibilities

Host government

- 11. Host Governments may have regulatory frameworks for workplace safety. UNSMS organizations may voluntarily adopt such local regulations and codes of practice, as well as seek guidance and support from relevant host Government authorities to manage fire incidents at a United Nations premises.

Responsibilities of UNSMS security personnel

- 12. Some UNSMS security personnel are part of fire risk management and work with OHS experts, facilities management, and others to manage fire risks.
- 13. Regardless of individual organizational capacity for safety, responsibilities of UNSMS security professionals as part of a team to manage fire risks are:

³ The fire risk management plan can be adjusted to suit the specific OHS capabilities of each UNSMS organization at their respective locations.

- a) Identify security threats related to fire, such as arson or incidents that could result in a fire and identifying and implementing security risk management (SRM) measures for risks that may result in fire.
 - b) Developing emergency response plans for fire-related events
14. UNSMS organizations may task security professionals with additional safety responsibilities, including partnering with OHS, facilities management and other stakeholders to ensure fire safety measures are effectively implemented in United Nations premises.
15. In locations with Security and Safety Services personnel with dedicated fire units, duty station Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures define roles of security professionals with safety-related fire risk management responsibilities.
16. In missions with a Security Fire Unit, duty station Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures define roles of security professionals with safety-related fire risk management responsibilities.

Responsibilities of UNSMS Organizations

17. UNSMS organizations should have an organizational fire risk management strategy that includes implementation of the “means of fire risk management” defined in this policy.

F. Compliance

18. Compliance of the security components of this policy is based on the responsibilities listed in the *Security Policy Manual*, Chapter II, Section A, “Framework of Accountability.”

G. Training

19. The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) shall develop training specifically tailored for Designated Officials, Security Management Team members, UNSMS security personnel and managers of UNSMS organizations, and coordinate the delivery of such training courses.
20. Training on the Fire Risk Management Policy shall be mandatory for all UNSMS security personnel.

H. Final Provisions

21. This policy is to be made available to UNSMS personnel.
22. This policy enters into force on 17 February 2025.