Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service was called out to

2,656 false alarms last year

at businesses

LIKE YOURS

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

IN AN EMERGENCY

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

Robert Ramsay, Southend Hospital

Robert Ramsay, Fire Officer at Southend Hospital, decided to take action after becoming frustrated at the organisation's many false alarms.

"We've done all we can to avoid our alarm sounding – our systems are maintained, we are careful of the placement of electrical appliances, we use the appropriate types of fire detectors, we train staff regularly and we educate contractors and visitors.

"Since 2013 we've had four real events which required the attendance of the Fire Service, which means to date we've saved 396 calls to the Fire Service.

"We've worked with the Fire Service to understand and take control of our systems, meaning we can stop the noise quickly and continue with our day – something which our patients and staff benefit from. For the Fire Service, it means less call outs – freeing them up for someone with a real emergency."

These call outs are caused by alarms activating accidently

YOU can play your part in reducing them ⬇

- 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.

- Adapt your alarm system to suit your needs. Your fire alarm maintenance company can help adapt the detectors and control panel within your system to suit your situation.

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

By having a strategy to investigate the cause of the activation the moment it happens, your staff can quickly identify false alarms, reset the system and return to work.

If you discover a fire as part of your investigation, leave the premises quickly and safely, dial 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service.

If you would like more information on reducing false fire alarms visit essex-fire.gov.uk/afa
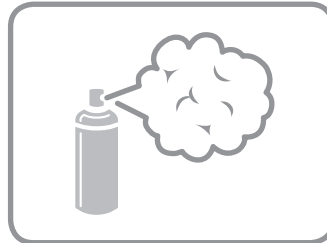
The most common causes of false alarms are:

Testing

Fire alarm being tested without notifiying the call centre.

Fumes

Steam, aerosols and other fumes activating the detectors.

Cooking

Cooking fumes, such as burnt toast.

Humidity

Humidity and temperature changes.

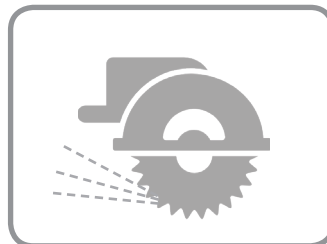## Smoking

Smoking near detectors.

Contractors

Contractors working below live or uncovered detectors.