



NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service,
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Tel: 01609 780150
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04/06/2026

Dear Responsible Person / Building Owner / Landlord / Building Manager,

I am writing to inform you that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service has announced a new Automatic Fire Alarm attendance procedure for commercial premises and other buildings where people do not sleep.

The Service currently does not attend automatic fire alarm activations at this kind of premises between 7am and 7pm. From 1 July 2026 this will extend to 24-hours, unless a fire is confirmed. This will help us prioritise resources where they are needed most and brings us in line with other fire and rescue services regionally and nationally.

Each year, the Service attends around 2,500 AFA incidents, of which approximately 99% are false alarms.

These unwanted fire signals place considerable demand on operational resources, diverting crews away from genuine emergencies, as well as important prevention and protection work within our communities.

Reducing false alarms is a key priority within our Community Risk Management Plan and Fire Plan 2025–2029. These strategies set out our commitment to a risk-based, proportionate approach that ensures our resources are available where they are most needed.

Following earlier changes that have already reduced the number of false alarm attendances, a further phase of changes will take effect from 1 July 2026. These were approved in December 2025 following public consultation.

How we will respond to AFAs from 1 July 2026:

- **We will continue to attend all incidents where a fire has been confirmed.**
- We will not attend automatic fire alarms at premises where people do not sleep, unless a fire has been confirmed.



- We will attend AFAs at identified high-risk premises, based on service intelligence and risk information.
- We will continue to attend all AFAs at premises where people sleep.
- We will continue to attend all AFAs at domestic properties.

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, responsibility for fire safety within premises, including the management of fire alarm systems and safe evacuation procedures, rests with the Responsible Person.

In light of these changes, you should review your fire risk assessment, fire safety arrangements and emergency procedures to ensure they remain appropriate.

Where necessary, updated procedures should be implemented and clearly communicated to all staff or occupants. Regular fire drills should also be carried out to reflect any changes.

If an alarm does actuate at your premise, those responsible for the business/building should have a procedure in place to take reasonable measures to safely investigate the alarm actuation before calling 999.

This is not the duty of the Fire and Rescue Service. Emergency control operators will ask for confirmation of an actual fire, or signs of fire, before sending a fire appliance.

If, because of these changes, you are required to amend your existing fire alarm procedures, then this should be recorded within your fire risk assessment and any changes communicated to all

staff.

We remain committed to supporting the business community and will continue to provide advice and guidance to help reduce false alarms and improve fire safety standards. Further information is available on our website, or by contacting our Business Fire Safety team at Capabilities@northyorksfire.gov.uk or via 01609 780150.

If you have questions or wish to discuss these changes, you may wish to attend one of the following virtual 'drop-in' sessions via Microsoft Teams.

These sessions will include a briefing and an opportunity to ask questions:

[NYFRS New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) Attendance Procedure | 09/06/26 | 13.00-14.00](#)

[NYFRS New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) Attendance Procedure | 12/06/26 | 09.00-10.00](#)

[NYFRS New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) Attendance Procedure | 26/06/26 | 14.30-15.30](#)

[NYFRS New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) Attendance Procedure | 30/06/26 | 13.30-14.30](#)

[NYFRS New Automatic Fire Alarm \(AFA\) Attendance Procedure | 02/07/26 | 10.00-11.00](#)

If you are unable to attend or wish to discuss these changes further, please contact us at capabilities@northyorksfire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Jon Darnton

Head of Protection and Risk

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service