



## Case Study

The owner of a Grade I listed, thirteenth century manor house and estate set in rural Dorset appointed Barratt & Arber to provide bespoke fire safety advice, training and salvage plans.

Barratt & Arber carried out a fire safety assessment specific to the property, providing simple but effective ways the home could be made safer from the risk of fire, for example better management of the numerous open fires and candles in use.

The staff then took part in a training session where they were taught what to do should the alarm activate and the actions to take on discovery of a fire. Hands on, practical fire extinguisher training was provided, to equip them in tackling a fire in its very early stages. Staff were also informed of the procedures they should follow, and in which order, to reduce the risk of fire spread and smoke damage, whilst ensuring their own safety. Life safety is of course the priority in any fire situation.

It was recommended that the fire alarm system be extended to include all areas of the house, and Barratt & Arber introduced and liaised with a trusted third party fire alarm company to quote for these works.

Using the provided floor plans and a list of priority items for salvage, all items were photographed, our unique and bespoke heritage salvage plans were created, with detailed location and handling information. Some items, including large tapestries, were deemed too large or fragile to move in an emergency, so Barratt & Arber were able to recommend a specialist company to fabricate bespoke fire resistant covers to protect these items in situ.

Importantly, Barratt & Arber communicated vital information to the fire service, including the existence of the salvage plans and additional operational considerations.

The estate wanted to create a full emergency plan to bring all the elements of fire safety together and to be able to practise it. On consulting with the fire service, as the estate was on the border of three counties, three fire services were keen to also partake in an exercise. Barratt & Arber extensively planned and ran a hugely successful full exercise with estate staff and the fire service. Six emergency vehicles had to respond to an emergency call, locate a “fire”, run all hoses and bring ten priority items out of the property to safety. Staff were able to put into practise emergency procedures and all the training they had been given by Barratt & Arber, and, using equipment we had put together into a bespoke salvage kit, they protected and recorded the salvaged items. The feedback from both sides was that the exercise was incredibly useful and worthwhile should the worst occur.

The comprehensive emergency plan including reports created from the fire safety advice and training, together with salvage plans, were beautifully presented and given to the client and their household staff to keep safely and securely on site.

The owner and the staff were surprised and pleased with the simple steps Barratt & Arber were able to highlight to reduce the risk of fire, and allow them to be better prepared. They are looking forward to their annual review to ensure any new staff, movement of the collection or changes to the layout of the property or estate are accounted for and all information and plans are up to date.



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