

## **Appendix A**

### **CASE STUDY**

#### **St Michael's Mount Nursing Home, Woolton Road, Liverpool Breach of fire safety regulations.**

**Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service** has highlighted that it will use its full powers of enforcement to ensure that organisations comply with fire safety regulations.

Officers will work with the community to ensure that premises are safe and that they are compliant with the Fire Safety Order.

This comes after MF&RS successfully prosecuted two owners of St Michael's Mount Nursing Home in Woolton Road in Liverpool for breaching fire safety regulations.

The owners of the home, Michael Hanlon, 67, of Dowhills Drive, in Blundellsands and James Mutch, 68, of Merrilocks Road in Blundellsands, pleaded guilty at Liverpool Magistrates Court to seven breaches of fire regulations.

They were fined £44,000 at Liverpool Magistrates Court on Thursday, December 5.

Firefighters were called out to an accidental fire at the premises in October 2012, which involved an extractor fan.

Staff at the home exited the building during the fire and left the elderly residents inside the building.

On arrival, firefighters found a number of fire doors, which included doors to bedrooms of vulnerable residents, were wedged open and had been left that way while staff exited the building.

Three elderly residents required treatment for smoke inhalation following the incident.

The next day an inspection was carried out by an MF&RS Fire Safety Technical Officer during which a number of breaches of fire safety regulations were detected.

Hanlon and Mutch pleaded guilty to the following seven charges:

1. Failure to make a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment.
2. Failure to have a suitable system of maintenance, and failing to maintain in an effective state, in efficient working order, and correct configuration, a fire alarm.
3. Failure to keep clear at all times the emergency exits and routes to the exits, namely the means of escape from the conservatory.
4. Failure to ensure the safety of relevant persons by failing to properly maintain a suitable and sufficient fire evacuation procedure for the premises.
5. Failure to ensure that the premises and facilities were subject to a suitable system of maintenance, in an efficient state, efficient working order and in good repair; namely defective fire doors.
6. Failure to provide their employees with comprehensive and relevant information upon protective and preventative measures.
7. Failure to provide agency staff with comprehensive and relevant information upon preventative and protective measures.

MF&RS Area Manager Myles Platt said: “It is important that businesses and organisations comply with fire safety regulations and this is particularly so if they are responsible for vulnerable people.

“We will work closely with local businesses within the community to offer support and advice with regards to making their premises safe. However if we identify through our risk-based auditing strategy or whilst responding to or following up on premises fires, that there has been a significant lack of appropriate fire safety measures taken within the premises, that could lead to the possibility of persons being seriously injured or even dying, then we

will take all reasonable enforcement action against the responsible person, including prosecution.”

Link to article in Liverpool Echo:

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/staff-liverpool-care-home-left-6377530>.