



Release Date 03/05/2007

The fire service may save your life, but who will save your business?

"We managed to bring the fire under control but the building is completely destroyed," Bill Harrop, Fire Service, 'Major fire disrupts Manchester city centre' BBC News 30 April

While fire officers concern is appropriately geared towards saving life, how can businesses pick up the pieces when a fire has ripped through their premises? Government guidance on fire safety, Approved Document B (AD B), concentrates on the successful evacuation of burning buildings. But property protection lies largely outside the scope of regulation. This severely underestimates the true cost of fire. David Sugden, Chairman of The Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF) explains: "Passive fire protection measures (eg structural steel and fire compartmentation) help to control the spread of fire and maintain a building's structural stability. But business owners must maintain these measures to restrict fire spread. It is the owner's responsibility to save his business premises".

David continues: "Fires in modern buildings can last for more than 24 hours. But the guidance offered by AD B only requires a structural resilience for one or two hours, which means the building could be completely destroyed! Up to 80% of businesses fail within 12 months of suffering a major catastrophe, such as fire, leaving many jobless."

END

216 words

Issued on behalf of:

David Sugden, **Passive Fire Protection Federation**, Association House, 99 West Street,
Farnham, Surrey, GU9 7EN Tel: 01274 861338

Email: pfpf@associationhouse.org.uk

Press enquiries to:

Gareth Brough, Michael Rigby Associates, 15 Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 7AE

Tel: 01453 521621 Email: gareth@521621.com

Editors notes: The Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF - www.pfpf.org) is dedicated to growing awareness and giving advice on fire protection, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO). Our members include the Chief Fire Officers Association, the Department of Communities and Local Government (previously the ODPM), the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the Building Research Establishment among others. Our website carries advice on what to check and best practice in all passive fire protection measures