Martyn's Law on one page: scout and guide huts

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Does it apply to you?

If 200 or more people can reasonably be expected in your building at the same time, counting staff and volunteers. Count your busiest occasion, not an ordinary day. Times that can take you over:

- Fundraisers, fairs and quiz nights
- Discos and parties for young people
- Presentation evenings with families
- Weekend hirings by other groups

200 to 799 is the standard tier. 800 or more is the enhanced tier, with extra duties: get specialist advice. Places of worship, schools and childcare stay standard when that's the building's main use.

The four plans

Get everyone out (evacuation). How you move people out of the building, or part of it, quickly and safely.

Bring everyone in (invacuation). How you bring people inside, or to a safer room, when outside is the danger.

Lock down (lockdown). How you stop people getting in or out, for example by locking doors.

Keep people informed (communication). How you tell people what's happening and what to do: stay put, or move away.

Write them for your own building. Keep where keys are kept and where people shelter to the people who need to know.

What it doesn't ask

The standard tier doesn't ask for security staff, bag searches, CCTV or new equipment, building work or a training course.

Hirers

When you hire out your building, you stay the responsible person. The Home Office's guidance says to explain to each hirer what's expected of them, and to be able to show the SIA that you did.

A made-up example: get everyone out (evacuation)

1st Millbrook Scout Hut, up to 220 people

During a packed fundraising disco, a leader is told of a threat at the front of the hut.

1. The leader on the door tells the other leaders using the agreed phrase.
2. Leaders take the young people out through the fire exits at the back, away from the front.
3. Each leader takes their own group away from the hut, in different directions, and counts them once they're clear.
4. The person in charge calls 999 and keeps everyone together until the police say it's safe.

When

Time to get ready. Nothing is required by law yet. The Home Office encourages venues to start thinking about what the law asks.

The duties are expected to start in spring 2027.

Your next steps

1. Count your busiest occasion and check your tier.
2. Agree who the responsible person is.
3. Write your four plans, and brief everyone with a part to play.
4. Review once a year, and when things change.

Check your venue free at gethailo.co.uk/check. hailo writes your plans for your building and briefs your people by link.