

Fire Policy Practice Guidance Note		
Fire Fighting Equipment in Use on Trust Premises V04		
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KEY POINTS

- It is a requirement for Trust and NTW Solutions (NTWS) staff to receive training in the use of fire fighting equipment
- Training is undertaken during mandatory sessions and includes use of fire extinguishers and fire blankets
- It is illegal for any person to tamper with or misuse any item of equipment or system provided for the purpose of life safety
- This guidance is applicable to all Trust and NTWS employees
- The current legislation covering the supply and use of fire fighting equipment is the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

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Fire Practice Guidance Notes form part of the CNTW Group's approach to managing health and safety and it is expected that staff will follow the guidance contained within them unless there is a compelling reason to deviate from it. Such reasons should be documented whenever the circumstance occurs and notified to the Head of Estates so that modifications to future editions can be made if necessary.

Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
FP-PGN-05 – Fire Fighting Equipment used on Trust Premises – V04-Iss1-Feb 2021
Part of CNTW(O)41 – Fire Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 All departments, wards, villas etc. are supplied with fire fighting equipment and this PGN looks at the various types available within Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, (the Trust) premises and gives simple guidance on the procedures to be adopted when using such equipment.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This Practice Guidance Note (PGN) together with any associated procedures and guidance notes, shall be observed by all employees of the Trust and NTWS and is applicable to responsible persons and their nominated deputies.

3 Statement

- 3.1 The Trust are committed to effective management and control of fire safety in order to reduce the risks to patients, staff, visitors and members of the public.
- 3.2 The Fire Safety Advisors will actively assist all responsible persons in ensuring the fire safety duties are carried out satisfactory manner.

4 Types of fire fighting equipment

- 4.1 Fire extinguishers and fire blankets are classed as first-aid fire fighting equipment. That means they are provided under the following conditions:

- The person intending to use them has received sufficient training and is deemed competent
- They are only used as an initial attempt at fire fighting. If a fire is beyond the use of the equipment, it should be left for professional fire fighters to deal with
- Fire blankets are a single-use piece of equipment and therefore must be discarded after use and replaced with a new blanket
- If there is any doubt about the capability of fire extinguishers in a fire situation, leave the premises as soon as possible by the nearest exit, do not remain and attempt to fight the fire

- 4.2 All types of fire extinguisher can be found on Trust premises however the most common used are Foam, Carbon Dioxide and Water Spray. Fire extinguishers are identified by colour reference and are all coloured 95% red with an additional colour to identify the various types of extinguisher. These are listed and illustrated as follows:

- Water - red body with white text, red handle or both
- Foam - red body with cream text, cream handle or both
- Dry powder - red body with blue text, blue handle or both
- CO2 - red body with black text and discharge horn
- Wet chemical - red body with yellow text and discharge lance

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1



6L Foam extinguisher



Carbon Dioxide



3L Water extinguisher



Dry Powder



Wet Chemical



3 Litre Foam

4.3 The 3 Litre Capacity Water / Foam extinguishers achieve the same fire extinguishing range as the 9 litre water and 6 litre foam extinguishers with considerably less weight. They have also passed the electrical conductivity test at 35kv and are therefore safe if accidentally used on electrical equipment. These extinguishers will eventually replace the standard 9 litre water and 6 litre foam extinguishers.

4.4 Please note each fire extinguisher is designed to fight certain types of fire and using the incorrect extinguisher on a fire may result in injury or making the situation worse. Below are the classes of fire and the corresponding type of fire extinguisher:

- Class A - textiles, wood, paper etc. – (Water, Foam, Dry powder)
- Class B - liquid fuels – (Foam, Dry powder, Carbon Dioxide)
- Class C - flammable gases - (Dry powder)

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- Class D - fires involving metals - (specialised extinguishing equipment)
- Class E - Electrical fires - (Carbon Dioxide, Dry powder)
- Class F - fires involving animal fats or vegetable oil - (wet chemical)

4.5 Fire Extinguisher Information Notices, as shown below, will be displayed adjacent to fire extinguishers denoting what type of extinguisher they are, what types of fire they are suitable for as well as fires they must not be used on.



NEVER USE A WATER BASED FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON A LIVE ELECTRICAL SOURCE

5 Fire Blankets

5.1 Fire blankets are normally found in kitchen or catering areas they are a one-use piece of equipment and must be discarded after use. They are designed to be placed over cooking utensils such as pans to smother any flames. Information on the use of fire blankets is included in mandatory fire training.

6 Training

6.1 Training in the use of fire fighting equipment is given at annual mandatory training sessions. Only ever attempt to use this equipment if:

- You have received training and are competent in the use of the equipment
- You are not likely to put either yourself or others in danger by doing so

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7 Testing and Maintenance

- 7.1 All fire fighting extinguishers are subject to an annual maintenance regime and also a routine visible check by staff on a monthly basis. The results must be entered in the fire safety logbook which is also a legal document and must be kept up to date. Any defects found during routine checks must be reported as soon as possible to the Estates department or the Fire Safety Advisor.

8 Summary

- 8.1 Fire fighting equipment is an effective tool to use on small, undeveloped fires and can prevent a small fire becoming a large fire if used correctly. Practical use of this equipment is given on Fire Warden's courses. If fire extinguishers are to be used, always ensure the correct extinguisher is used for the job in hand.