

HANDOUT - FIRE & EVACUATION, GETTING IT RIGHT FIRST TIME

Why Fire Safety is Important

Fires and other causes of evacuation can occur at any time at work or at play. We must not get complacent or fail to act. We need to be prepared for any eventuality. Building in confidence now can also help us to survive such situations too. Dismissing it thinking that it 'won't happen to us' is a recipe for disaster as every second counts if it does happen and you don't have a second chance !

Studies and reports which have reviewed the cause and consequences of real fire / evacuation incidents such as Manchester Woolworths Fire (1979), Bradford Stadium Fire (1985), World Trade Centre (9/11), London Bombings (7/7) and oil rig helicopter evacuation drills / incidents confirm that complacency and poor training / preparation can be a real killer whilst confidence can help survival against the odds.

Introducing the 4 P's to Fire & Evacuation

1. Prevention

The best line of defence is always 'prevention' rather than 'cure' having in place good controls to stop fires from starting and developing in the first place. Most fire training that you will have undertaken in the past will have focussed on these areas and your role in relation to this. Simple and sensible measures can help achieve this – minimise combustible materials, report and deal with defects e.g. faulty electrical equipment, only smoke in permitted areas, keeping doors and windows closed.

2. Process

These are the procedures / requirements which are in place. These alone will not make you safe, they are a means to an end and also guide the other P's – prevention, preparation and practice. The process is influenced by legislation, such as the Fire Safety Reform Order, Firecode (for NHS premises) and our own NHSBT documentation – Fire Policies (MPDs), Evacuation Procedures (SOP) and Venue Assessment process. These specify roles and responsibilities which must be followed.

3. Preparation

The focus of this is knowing how the process is reflected in reality i.e. knowing what it is, how it is implemented and asking any questions or queries now whilst in a 'safe' environment where they can be discussed and addressed to provide confidence.

4. Practice

This is a proactive check that the systems and processes in place work when they need to and provides reassurances to staff. It also enables changes to be made if problems or issues are identified rather than when it

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occurs for real. Fire drills must take place every 6 months on sessions to ensure confidence and reassurance remains in place.

Building Confidence

Knowing the 4 P's and what they mean in reality should help develop your confidence should these situations arise, so that they are managed effectively to minimise the negative consequences to all.

Away from Work

The 4 P's apply in principle to all situations – fire safety at home and other causes of evacuation. Although for the process aspect this could, in some situations, be dynamic, decided at the time and lead by others such as the emergency services. You should always follow their advice, as they are the most competent individuals to take advice from in these situations.

You can do your bit by familiarising yourself with your surroundings be observant of signage, routes etc. so that if something does happen you can act without too much thinking. For example make sure you look at safety instructions on aircraft, trains and when staying in accommodation, check distances particularly seat rows to an exit on an aircraft and whether the nearest route is actually behind you. At home you should make sure you have thought about what to do in the event of a fire and make sure everyone else knows this too and try it! You never know if what you think will be okay will actually work it about putting the theory into practice!

Source of further information, particularly for fire safety in the home:

<http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/firekills/>



Learners Name

'QUICK END OF COURSE QUIZ'

Question 1

(8 points)

What are the four P's for fire control and briefly state why each are important.

1.

because

2.

because

3.

because

4.

because

Question 2

(3 points)

Identify 3 things that you can do to help reduce the risk from fire.

1.

2.

3.

Question 3

(6 points)

In the event of a fire, what is your role when performing the following duties ?

Health Screening

Donor Carer in Pod

Registration

Front of House

Appointments

Other Staff

Learners Name

Question 4

(3 points)

If a donor is unconscious during a fire evacuation, what should you do ?

1.
2.
3.

Question 5

On a scale of 1-5, how confident are you now in the event of a fire ?

Very Unsure	Unsure	Satisfied	Confident	Very Confident
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please explain your answer

.....
.....

Question 6

Do you have any questions to add to the Q&A sheets for the course ?

Yes / No

If yes, please state the question below and type of response required.

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.....

Question 7

Do you have any other feedback on the course to assist with continuous improvement ?

Yes / No

Please explain your answer

.....
.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & FEEDBACK