



**Fire
Safety**



Fire Safety

Level 1 - All staff, including unpaid and voluntary staff

 Fire Safety

What you will learn in this session

1. The characteristics of fire, smoke and toxic fumes
 2. Fire hazards involved in the working environment
 3. Significant findings of relevant fire risk assessments
 4. Practise and promote fire prevention
 5. Basic fire safety and fire safety protocols including staff responsibilities
 6. How to raise the fire alarm and actions to take on hearing the fire alarm
 7. Action to take if fire breaks out or smoke is detected
 8. Identify the types of fire extinguishers used in different situations
 9. Evacuation procedures and associated escape routes
- **You will require further practical training to include evacuation procedures and a local induction to your place of work**
 - **Dependent on role, location and service need, the outcomes here should be supplemented by specific job and site training**

Why is this so important?



Duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

5. Any duty (to provide a minimum fire safety standard) imposed on the Responsible person by this Order shall also be imposed on every person, who has to any extent, control of those premises, as far as the requirements relate to matters within his control.

THIS MEANS YOU!

Why is this so important?

- Adequate fire safety training is essential to ensuring that fire prevention and emergency action plans can be put into practice. The safe evacuation of our patients in the event of a fire will rely on the effective action of staff in implementing the emergency plan.
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service attendance policy has been downgraded by 50% - It can take up to 15mins for an engine to arrive at the Trust once called.



Fire Safety

What is fire?

- A chemical reaction producing smoke, heat and flames
- Produces dangerous, toxic gases
- Will cause disorientation
- Will damage property
- May cause injury or death

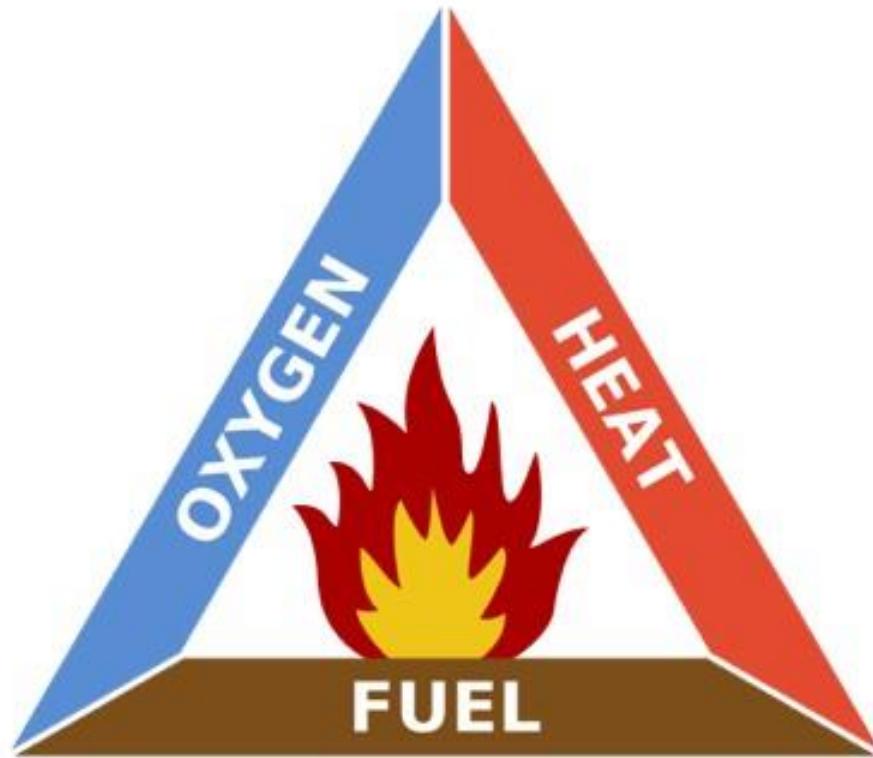


Smoke inhalation

**Number 1 cause of death
in indoor fires**

Triangle of Combustion

- A fire needs 3 elements:
- **Oxygen, Heat and Fuel**
- Take 1 of these elements away and the fire will die



 Fire Safety

Fire hazards

- Smoking
- Flammable liquids, gases and chemicals
- Medical oxygen
- Electrical items
- Clutter/fire loading
- Arson
- Staff kitchens/cooking equipment

- All staff, patients and visitors are to adhere to the Trust No-Smoking



Flammable liquids, gases & chemicals

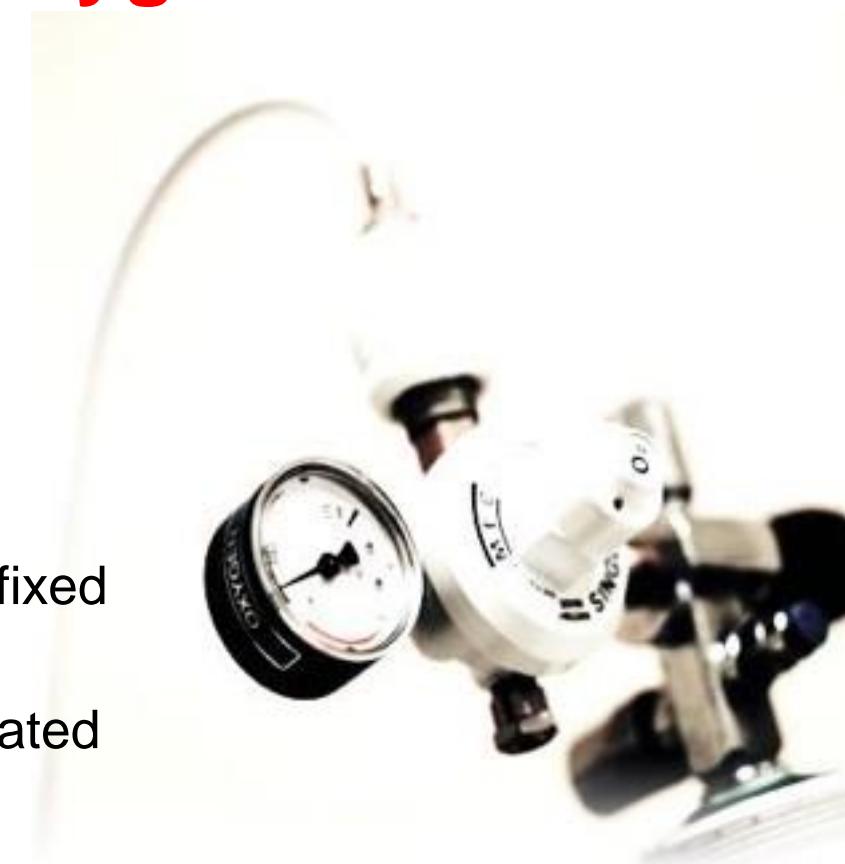
- Everyday cleaning products
- Chemicals and gases
- Take care with gas cylinders
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (**COSHH**)
 - Flammables should be:
 - Clearly labelled
 - Stored securely away from heat



Fire Safety

Medical oxygen

- Oxygen makes a fire **WORSE**
- Always report leaks
 - Be familiar with how oxygen is supplied and managed
 - Know how to turn off cylinders or fixed oxygen supply
 - Store cylinders properly in designated storage areas
 - Don't smoke near oxygen!



Electrical equipment

- Can be a **FIRE HAZARD** if in poor condition or used incorrectly
- Look for signs of damage, overheating or not working properly
- Make sure equipment is PAT tested
- If in any doubt:
SWITCH OFF, REPORT AND LABEL
- Let others in the area know about the fault
- Call Maintenance to report



Clutter / Fire Loading

- Acts as fuel for fire
- Blocks exits and escape routes
- Increases risk of trips and falls
- Disrupts access for fire fighters



**Always keep fire escape routes clear
It's your way out!**

Arson

- Health care premises are an easy target
- Most likely cause of fire in the NHS
- Be on your guard
- Report any suspicions
- Consider contacting the police



Fire Risk Assessment

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 demands that all organisations carry out regular and timely Fire Risk Assessments
- Become accustomed with the location of fire equipment, fire exits and the evacuation protocol for your working area
- You must familiarise yourself with your organisation's Fire Safety Policy and Local / Departmental Fire Risk Assessment
- Take note of any significant findings in the Fire Risk Assessment

Risk assessment 'Significant Findings'

- You should be aware of any **Significant Findings** on any Fire Risk Assessments that affect you, your role or location, for example:
- What fire hazards have been identified (**preventive measures**)
- The actions needed to be taken to remove or reduce the chance of fire occurring
- Which people are at risk, particularly those at greatest risk
- The actions taken / will take to reduce the risk to people (**protective measures**)
- The actions people need to take in case of fire (**emergency plan**)
- The information, instruction and training needed and how it will be given

Fire Safety

Protective measures

- Structural fire separation (Compartmentation)
- Fire doors (30 minute minimum protection)
- Fire alarms
- Fire signage
- Emergency lighting
- Fire fighting equipment
- Evacuation procedures
- Refuges



Warning Systems

Automatic Smoke / Heat Detection system



Fire Alarms

Action to be taken:

- **Continuous alarm bells – Evacuate**

The fire is in your area / zone and you need to evacuate

- **Intermittent alarm bells – Be Aware**

The fire is in the adjacent area / zone. People from this area may evacuate to where you are or you may need to evacuate if the alarm changes to continuous

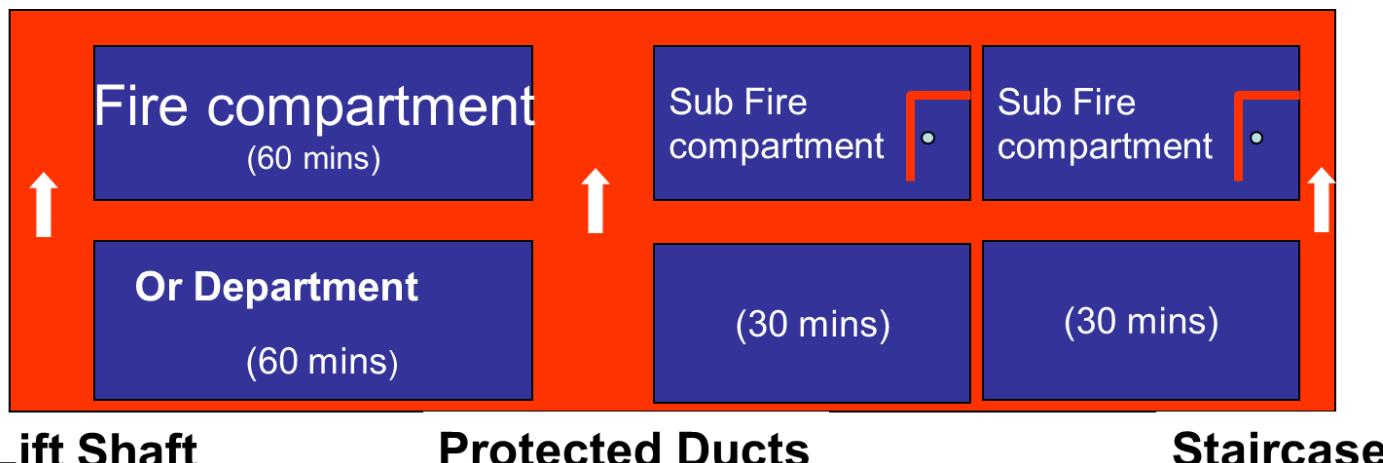


The alarm system is tested once per week

Compartmentation

This is dividing a building into fire resisting boxes which contain a fire for a certain amount of time.

- First we divide all the departments and wards into a space which is protected from fire spreading for 60 minutes
- Next we protect all the areas which may have a fire, like kitchens or store rooms, by providing 30 minutes protection from a fire spread



Lift Shaft

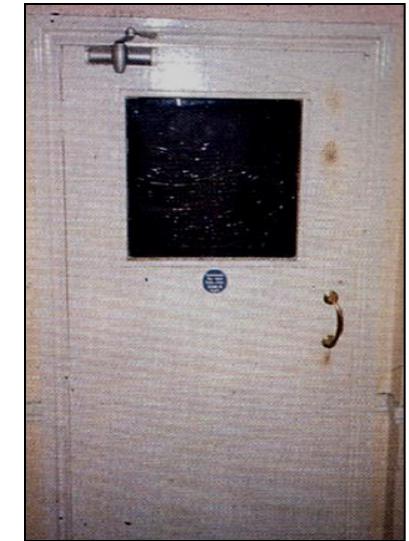
Protected Ducts

Staircase

Fire Doors

Keep fire doors closed unless they kept open automatically.

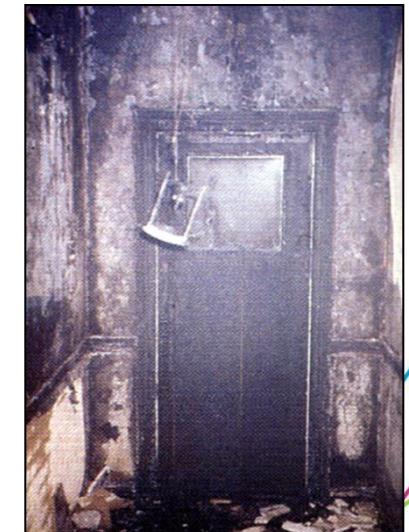
Do not wedge open fire doors!



If the fire alarm is sounding be aware of:

- Smoke - Through the windows or around the door edges
- Scorch Marks on door and near handles

If either are present DO NOT open the door



Smoke Kills Control It!

Smoke inhalation is the No.1 cause of death in indoor fires in the UK



- In this image you can see the carpet and bed but not the ceiling. This tells you to stay low in order to stay safe with better visibility.
- It is very important to keep all fire doors closed unless they have a device fitted to keep them open. This contains the smoke and makes evacuation safer.

 Fire Safety

Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers come in different shapes, sizes and colours
- Each fire extinguisher is specifically designed to tackle a certain type of fire

**Only use fire extinguishers and any other fire fighting equipment
if you're trained to do so**

Fire Extinguishers

- **Black** CO2 or Carbon Dioxide Fire Extinguishers (very effective on fires of computer equipment and various other electrical appliances)
- **Cream** Foam Fire Extinguishers (the most common type of fire extinguisher) Used for organic materials such as Paper and cardboard, Fabrics and textiles and Wood plus Flammable liquids, like paint and petrol.



We use CO2 for electrical fires and Foam for everything else



Fire
Safety

Fire Wardens

Meet & Greet

Meet new staff, explain their role and departmental specifics



Fire audit

Bi-Monthly checks and report faults to Estates and Facilities



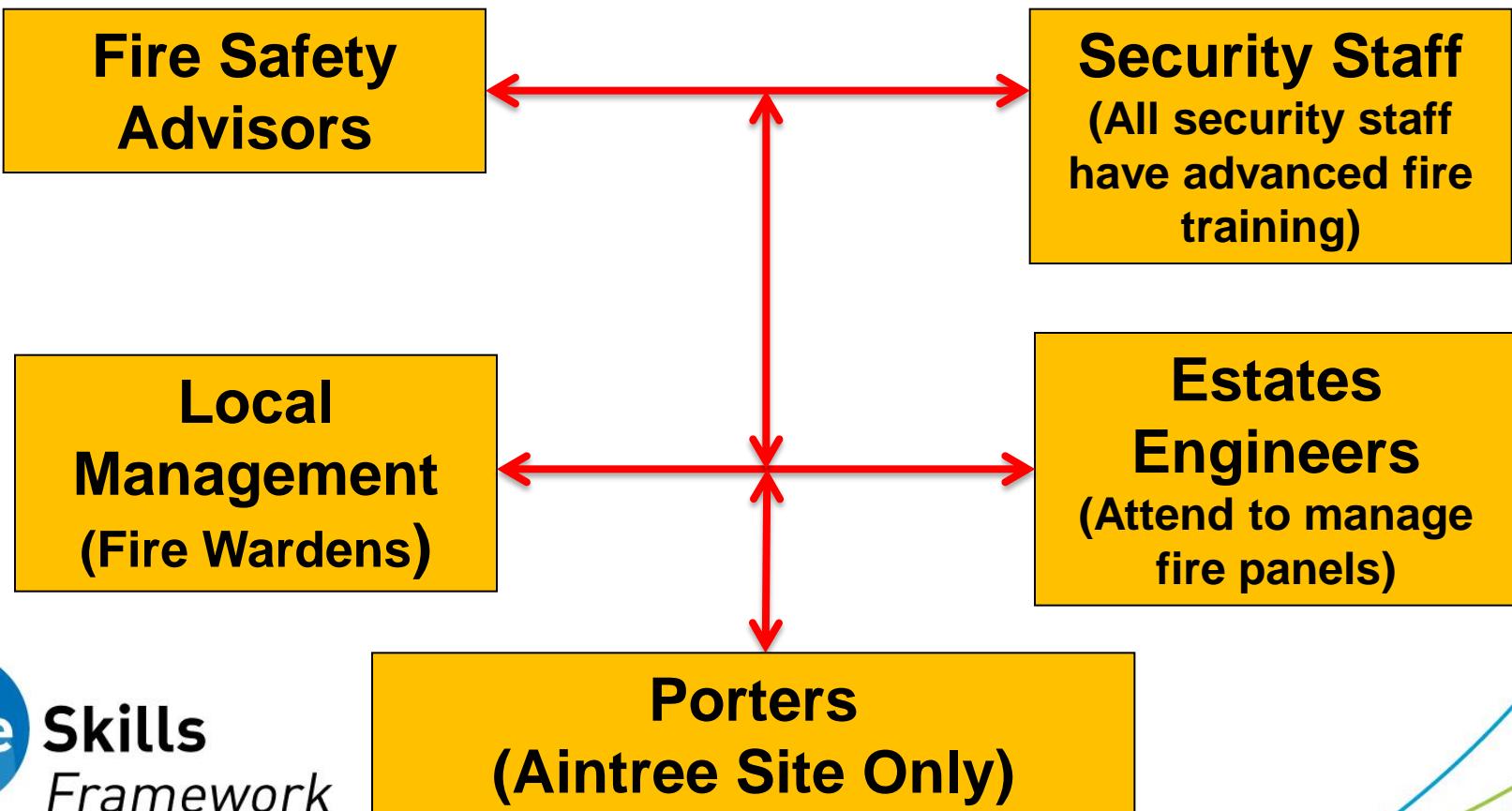
Fire Training

3 yearly practical advanced fire safety training from Fire and Rescue Service



Emergency Fire Team

The emergency fire team is made up of various personnel and will respond to a fire alarm call, tackle a fire if possible and initiate the call the fire brigade if necessary



Evacuation



- Progressively move from the area where the fire is to an adjacent area on the same level
- Move from an area where the fire alarm is continuous to the next which is intermittent
- In the event of a serious fire, consider your continuity plan which may involve moving to a different part of the hospital.

Actions in the event of fire

- Raise the alarm (Red Break Glass)
- Tackle the fire if you are trained **AND ONLY** if it's safe to do so
- Evacuate patients to a safe area and ensure their health needs are met
- Close doors and windows if it's safe to do so
- A call should be made to the switchboard on **Ext. 2222** that receives the initial alarm call and can contact the fire team or, if required, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Await further information from attending fire team



 Fire Safety

If you hear the fire alarm

- Follow The Trust evacuation plan and procedure

The General principles are:

- Exit the compartment you are in as quickly as possible
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings
- Do not use lifts
- Meet well away from the building at the agreed assembly point
- Do not return to the building unless told it is safe to do so
- Follow any instructions from Fire Marshalls / Wardens and the emergency services
- If you are responsible for patients or other people you will need to follow separate instructions to ensure their safety

Fire Safety

You must know...

- Where are the fire alarm call points?
- What the emergency number is?
- Where the escape routes are?
- Where is the safe refuge?
- How will the patients be moved?
- What are the security arrangements?
- Each type of alarm signal?
- When are alarm test days?



Fire Safety

Don't forget about...

- Disabled colleagues
- Patients and visitors
- Alternative ways out
- Switching equipment off if necessary and safe to do so
- Closing windows and doors



Fire Safety

Remember to...

- Report hazards
- Raise the alarm
- Know your means of escape
- Keep escape routes clear
- Ensure personal safety



 A circular logo with a blue outer ring, an orange inner ring, and a red center. The words "Fire Safety" are written in white on the red background.

Fire
Safety

Need advice?

Helpdesk: 0151 529 6597

HealthandSafety@liverpoolft.nhs.uk