

National Association of Healthcare Fire Officers

CONFERENCE EDITION 2011



Call Filtering

Department of Emergency Preparedness DVD...

The Department of Emergency Preparedness, under the supervision of Gary Donald, have produced a DVD aimed at NHS organisations and Fire and Rescue Services highlighting issues around emergency preparedness. Gary is seconded into the Department of Health from London Fire Brigade. The DVD was produced in the wake of the series of London Hospital Fires. The DVD will be distributed to each NHS organisation.

Have you paid your subscriptions...

Just a gentle reminder that 2011/12 subs are due if you have not already paid. Please pay your £30.00 as soon as possible; Paypal is also available this year through the web site.

Welcome to this joint newsletter produced by NAHFO and Gent by Honeywell and it is with pleasure we produce this newsletter at the time of Conference as our first joint newsletter was at last years conference. In the past year much has changed, the economic downturn continues to challenge us all; as does the uncertainty of the proposed reforms within the NHS. But one thing is sure, fire safety standards will still be required to be maintained and the challenges in doing so will affect us all, so any partnership working and sharing of information has to be a positive move.

are welcome and members are reminded that the web site is only as current and relevant as the information we all submit to it, so all submissions are welcome. The NEC would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Lowrie for the exceptional work done with the previous web site, thank you Susan.

Loughborough University – a UK first...

Loughborough University is currently running the first ever MSc in Healthcare Fire Safety within the UK. The MSc programme has 10 students and at the time of going to press the students had completed the first module. Loughborough University now offers a Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Fire Safety, a Diploma and now the MSc. More details available overleaf.

NAHFO works with Fire and Rescue Services...

In February and March of this year the General Secretary presented at 2 Training Days, 1 hosted by the Merseyside IFE and 1 hosted by London Fire Brigade. Both training days gave NAHFO the opportunity to talk to Fire and Rescue Service audiences about the very unique nature of healthcare fire safety and its practical application in a very complex healthcare background.

NAHFO launches its new look web site...

April saw the launch of the new look web site; this re launch was helped in part by the joint partnership with ADT and the kind sponsorship by ADT. It is intended to use the web site as the main vehicle of communication within NAHFO. Any comments on the web site

Home Oxygen Service & Fire Risks

Following a national project involving Department of Health, CLG and private sector suppliers, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service have approached the NHS in their region in the hope of raising awareness of a serious issue of fire safety. As more and more people are diagnosed with breathing disorders, the number of patients using oxygen services (HOS) in their home is on the increase. Smoking, poor cooking and home heating habits have lead to a rise in fires in homes where oxygen services are in use. Higher levels of oxygen create a more volatile atmosphere which puts occupants, neighbours and Fire Fighters at risk when incidents occur. WYFRS aim to

raise awareness of this issue in NHS trusts, in the hope that personnel working out in the community will highlight 'at risk' individuals. Training, education and support is being offered by WYFRS and is supported by the National HOS and Smoking Working Group which is striving to make national changes to protocol and procedures in HOS prescription.



THE FUTURE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES: "SAVING MONEY, SAVING LIVES"



On behalf of the NEC John Jackson attended the Future of Emergency Services presentation – "Saving Money, Saving Lives". John reported that the presentation was very interesting and provide this brief overview of the core discussions at the event.

The Government is looking at legislation and strategies and consults with the intention of ensuring that all its policies meet the needs of the population at large. In the middle are the practitioners charged with implementing a delivering the changes that emerge from Westminster and beyond. I provide a list of some of the subjects:

Meeting the Changing Hazards of the 21st Century:

- Creating a resilient UK infrastructure to deal with emergencies.
- Development of the Capabilities Programme to build capacity.

Future of Emergency Services in the 21st Century:

- Fire Futures – A review of Fire Services to determine their future role and shape.
- Effective business continuity management in the fire and rescue services.

Improving Outcomes, Reducing Costs

- Achieving value for money.
- Working closely with other partner agencies and communities to tackle local issues and provide long term sustainable solutions.

Driving Efficiencies in the Emergency Services

- Looking at cost-saving alternatives.
- Joining up services.

Big Society and the Future of Emergency Services

- Role of volunteers in the Emergency Services.
- What will the Big Society mean for the future delivery of Emergency Services.

Making the case for Efficiency

- Value for money at the heart of decision making.
- The case for efficiency and local accountability.

Is this all that Healthcare Fire Safety Management is about?

Healthcare Fire Safety Management (Certificate, Diploma & MSc)

Developed in collaboration with NAHFO, this programme is designed to meet the needs of specialist healthcare fire safety professionals.

Flexible, part-time programme delivery perfect for:

- ▶ NHS Fire Safety Managers
- ▶ Independent Health and Social Care Sector Fire Safety Consultants
- ▶ Healthcare Managers responsible for fire safety or emergency planning
- ▶ Care Home Owners and Managers
- ▶ Fire Prevention Officers working in Fire and Rescue Services

Next intake: June 2011 – BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

For further information, please contact:
Marion Jost on 01509 222155
or email M.Jost@lboro.ac.uk

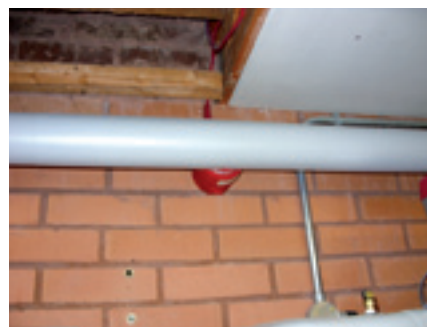
www.lboro.ac.uk/pgfiresafety



Loughborough University

Ref: FSM/6006

Watch what your contractors do!?



Green Manual Call Points: Clearing up the confusion

Green Manual call points are found in every building that has doors secured by electromagnets for security, you will find them in buildings as diverse as hospitals, airports, offices, schools, shops and in fact anywhere where security is an issue.

Following an incident a few years ago, where a staff member activated a green manual call point, in the mistaken belief that it was a fire alarm call point, I now put this into every fire safety training session, yet even after over 2 years, I still get people who think that the green 'break glass' boxes are fire alarm call points.

The green manual call points are, as many of you will know, a means of releasing a door that is held securely shut by an electromagnetic device, these devices are interfaced with the fire alarm and should release when the alarm sounds, allowing persons free unhindered egress.

Problems can be experienced with this system in a number of ways, the first is if a person has discovered a fire and wants to move away from it, if the door is across a means of escape (the most usual place to find them) and the alarm has not yet sounded, then the door will still be secured and require a number to be put into a keypad or a swipe card to be used, so the person escaping simply operates the break glass call point.

Another scenario is if a failure has occurred of either the interface or cabling between the fire alarm and security device, then when the alarm sounds the electromagnet does not de-energise and the door remains secured, then operation of the green box (which is wired directly to the magnet on that door only) will de-energise the magnet and allow the door to open.



As previously stated, people think that the green boxes (and any of the other coloured ones found in various areas) are fire alarm call points, giving us the potentially dangerous situation that the person operating a green call point mistakenly believes that the fire alarm doesn't work (which was the case in the above example).

So, in your training sessions, please consider explaining the difference between green and red, even if you don't actually have any doors secured by electromagnetic devices that have a green emergency door release, and in that way spread the word making people safer not just at work but in all other areas of the 'built environment'.

Kevin Lowry is an NHS fire safety advisor who was previously an officer in a local authority fire service and a specialist in hospitals and healthcare premises.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A small fire was reported on a construction site within an Acute Hospital, the fire was some insulation in an expansion joint, site contractors, not those carrying out the hot works saw smoke and triggered the fire alarm. Whilst the incident was minor and no damage was sustained the outcome could have been very different. Upon investigation the following facts were ascertained:

- Hot work permit was in place;
- Details laid out in the permit of precautions to be followed, in this case the surrounding area not being protected with a fire blanket were not carried out;
- Detailed checks for hot spots were not carried out by those responsible for carrying out hot works.

The moral of this story is, just because the hot work permit is in place and paper work is complete, this does not in itself provide assurance, it's still down to the site operatives to maintain safety and regular audits on site that methods statements and conditions of permits are being followed.

Estonia Rescue Board visit...

NAHFO has been asked to take part in a visit by the Estonian Rescue Board, this visit is to look at how healthcare fire safety is managed in the UK share experiences. The visit is 5 – 7 July 2011, further details of the visit will be in future newsletters.

Bizarre request to the fire safety advisor...

A patient comes into the hospital bringing with him his petrol powered chain saw... as he was staying over night he asked the Ward staff to put it under lock and key... moral of the story expect the unexpected!!!



National Association of Healthcare Fire Officers

STAR HOUSE PONTEFRACT

NHS Wakefield District has opened Star House, their new respite care facility.

The seven bed unit situated within the boundary of Purston park, Pontefract provides respite residential accommodation for children and young persons with learning and physical disabilities.

The single storey building was designed by DLA FREEMAN WHITE Healthcare Architecture and constructed by Procure 21 partners Kier Northern.

Ian Cass, Trust fires safety adviser said: "Fire precautions were an important consideration in the design brief. The building incorporates four separate fire compartments, and a Gent S-Quad fire detection system was specified in order to provide early warning of fire and to reduce the risk of unwanted fire signals. The alarm system includes an air sampling system within the service zones, and is linked to the free swing door closers on bedroom doors.

"In addition to fire safety precautions required under the Building Regulations, the building is also provided with an LP 2000 aqua mist fire suppression system (designed and installed by Aqua Mist Fire Protection Ltd)."



Ian Cass, Trust fire safety adviser, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

T: 01924 328681 E: ian.cass@swyt.nhs.uk

2012 Conference details

Plans for the 2012 Conference are progressing well. A likely venue will be Peterborough with the East Anglia Branch acting as the organising committee. As and when details start to emerge these will be communicated to members. The theme of the conference is being worked on.

Attendance to AFA's by the FRS

During deliberations at the April NEC meeting it became very clear that there are on going concerns from Fire Safety Advisors about the very differing attendances to healthcare premises by Fire and Rescue Services across the UK. These attendances range from:

- Automatic attendance of one appliance to any AFA;
- Attendance of FRS during certain hours, usually between 7am and 7pm;
- Attendance in a van with 2 people;
- No attendance at all during any period of the day.

What would be useful is for branches to let the Secretary know what's happening in your area so we can change anecdotal information into a proper national profile of what is happening in terms of "call challenging" and attendance to AFA's by the FRS.

CPD UPDATE

As a reminder to each NAHFO Branch – CPD can be awarded to Branches for meetings, training days, seminars, group presentations and any other activity where continuous professional development can be demonstrated. For further details contact NAHFO Secretary, all submissions for CPD awarded by IFE on behalf of NAHFO must come through the General Secretary.



For further information about this course please contact FPA Training Training on tel: 01608 812534 or email: training@thefpa.co.uk



NAHFO General Secretary, Block 51 Estates Management Offices, St James's University Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds, LS7 9TF
Tel. 0113 2064693 Mobile 07900 223417 E-mail: Peter.Aldridge@leedsth.nhs.uk Web: www.nahfo.org

GENT
by Honeywell

Waterside Road Hamilton Industrial Park Leicester LE5 1TN UK	Tel +44 (0)116 246 2000	Fax +44 (0)116 246 2300
Literature Helpline +44 (0)870 240 1434	E-mail gentenquiry@honeywell.com	Website www.gent.co.uk