

Fire Safety Challenges and Solutions



Claire Guise
Health and Safety Manager

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



Marie Curie Cancer Care (UK Wide)

- 9 Palliative Care Hospices (owned) – Facilities Manager in place (NEBOSH General Certificate qualified)
- Approx. 200 Charity Shops (leased) – building and fixed equipment responsibility of Building Surveyor
- Approx. 30 Offices (leased) – building and fixed equipment responsibility of Building Surveyor
- 7 Lock Ups (bulk storage) (leased) – building and fixed equipment responsibility of Building Surveyor
- 5 Residential flats (inherited as part of historical shop acquisition process) (leased and managed through managing agent) – building and fixed equipment responsibility of Building Surveyor

Health and Safety Manager

- Role created in January 2010
- Strategic Role
 - Policy development, advice and support
 - High level training course delivery
- Operational Role
 - Fire risk assessment
 - Legionella risk assessment
 - Access audit
 - Health and safety inspection
 - Asbestos management plan

Fire safety challenges and solutions....to date....



General Challenges



UK Wide – Differing Legislation

- Fire (Scotland) Act (Scotland)
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) (England and Wales)
- Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland)

Inconsistent Advice

- Internally and externally
- No internal “fire safety advisor”

Local Fire Service Involvement

- Inconsistent advice
- “Recommendations” verbally made and not documented
- “Suggestions” verbally made and not documented
- Local, not central liaison
- Some areas of “serious concern”

General Challenges - Solutions

- Fire Safety Policy updated (and made UK relevant and specific to Marie Curie)
- Appendix to policy also created – fire safety tests and checks required (including specification of competency)
- Health and Safety Manager role also Fire Safety Adviser
- Ensured central communication of local fire service visits and recommendations
- Commissioned services of “trusted” fire safety consultant

Lease Properties



Challenge 1

- No existing fire safety equipment or building standards established (varied across estate)
 - Smoke and Heat Detection
 - Fire Alarm Systems
 - Emergency Lighting
 - Fire Fighting Equipment
 - Compartmentation / fire doors
 - Signage

Solution(s)

- Minimum standards set and agreed with Building Surveyors:
 - Smoke detection (mains powered and linked) and heat detectors above steaming area
 - Upgraded to fire alarm system for more complex properties (or as required by landlord agent requirements)
 - Emergency lighting - above exits, changes in level and direction
 - Fire extinguishers – type and quantity (no fire blankets)
 - Agreement on compartmentation / fire doors
 - Shop fit specification updated with agreed standards

Challenge 2

- Some local operational fire safety standards historically agreed but not fully enforced
 - Fire exits and escape routes clear
 - Unobstructed fire extinguishers
 - Fire extinguishers on floor (fallen off wall)
 - Combustibles on top of heaters
 - Locked fire exit doors
 - Stock stored on stairs

Challenge 2



Solution(s)

- Minimum standards set and agreed with “responsible persons” and clarification provided on “accountability” for identification and resolution of these issues
 - Shops - Shop Management and Area Manager
 - Lock Ups – Driver and Area Manager
 - Offices - “Premises Representatives”
- Introduction of local audit systems
- Introduction of “helpdesk” for reporting problems / issues

Challenge 3

- Fire risk assessments not “suitable and sufficient”
- Carried out by people not trained to acceptable fire risk assessment standards
- Hand written
- Not to accepted standards
- Resulted in minimal actions and did not result in reduction in risk or any resolution of issues
- Tick box exercise

Solution(s)

- Health and Safety Manager role created – single fire risk assessor
- Required competency for fire risk assessment – NEBOSH Fire and Risk Management Certificate (or equivalent) and fire risk assessment experience
- Formally documented fire risk assessment carried out on agreed building, equipment and operational standards
- Fire risk assessment report includes photographs and timetabled action plan
- Building and equipment requests fed into specific safety budget request for funds to resolve retrospective issues

Challenge 4

- Some local fire safety checks carried out and documented
- Fire extinguishers serviced annually
- However, a number of fire safety equipment tests and checks and servicing not carried out in line with British Standards and CLG Fire Risk Assessment Guidance:
 - Smoke detector annual battery replacement and clean
 - Emergency lighting annual 3 hour “draw down” test
 - Fire alarm servicing

Solution(s)

- Project implemented to find “one stop shop” contractor to carry out the following services:
 - Periodic electrical testing
 - Portable appliance testing
 - Fire alarm servicing
 - Fire extinguisher servicing
 - Smoke detector annual battery replacement and clean
 - Emergency lighting annual 3 hour “draw down” test
- Part of the contract also involves contractor “uploading certification” to property database

Challenge 5

- Multi-tenanted buildings
 - Poor fire safety standards of landlords and other tenants
 - Landlord not supplying fire risk assessments
 - Landlords not testing and maintaining common equipment such as fire alarm systems

Solution(s)

- MCCC fire risk assessment includes relevant common areas and issues caused by other tenants
- Landlord fire risk assessments requested along with equipment certification
- Concerns communicated to landlords
- If they ignore concerns...

Challenge 6

- Residential flats above shops
 - Majority not responsibility of Marie Curie
 - A handful, responsibility of Marie Curie

Solution(s)

- Where not responsibility of Marie Curie and separate entrance, ensure effective compartmentation between shop and flat
- Where responsibility of Marie Curie, ensure effective compartmentation between shop and flat AND fit linked smoke detection between the shop and flat

Challenge 6

- Fire doors wedged open



Solution(s)

- Introduction of “dorgards” and other hold open devices



Hospice Challenges



Hospice Challenges

- Differences in:
 - Buildings (age, design, fire safety equipment)
 - Inspection, testing and maintenance regimes and records in place
 - Approach to fire risk assessment
 - Local fire officers
 - Approaches to patient evacuation

Hospice Challenges - Solutions

- Facilities Manager role created
- Facilities Managers required to undertake NEBOSH General Certificate and IOSH Managing Safely for Healthcare Environments
- Fire marshal training programme introduced
- Fire safety management plan introduced (to ensure records consistency)

Fire Safety Management Plan

1	Charity Fire Safety Policy
2	Hospice Fire Safety Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nominated Responsible Person• Emergency Coordinator• Fire Marshals• Nursing Fire Support
3	Hospice Fire Risk Assessment
4	Hospice Fire Evacuation Procedure
5	Hospice Evacuation Records (including fire drills, false alarms and unplanned evacuations)
6	Charity Fire Safety Equipment Inspection, Maintenance and Testing Guidance (Fire Safety Policy Appendix)

Fire Safety Management Plan

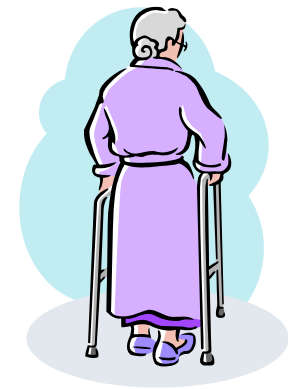
7	Detection and Alarm Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Details of Installationb. Location of Fire Alarm Call Pointsc. Location of Smoke / Heat Detectorsd. Location of Audible Sounderse. Location of Visual Beaconsf. Details of Fire Alarm Testing and Maintenance Arrangements (internal and external contractor)g. Fire Alarm Break Glass Call Point Weekly Test Records (internal)h. Fire Alarm Operating Manual (supplied by external contractor)i. Fire Safety Diagram (if available)j. Fire Alarm Inspection, Maintenance and Test Records (supplied by external contractor)
8	Fire Doors / Fire Exit Doors <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Location and Type of Internal Fire Doorsb. Location of External Fire Exit Doorsc. Internal Fire Door / External Fire Exit Door Inspection Guidanced. Internal Fire Door Monthly Inspection Recordse. External Fire Exit Door Monthly Inspection Recordsf. Internal Fire Door Weekly Alarm Release Record (held open with magnet / "dor guard")
9	Emergency Lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Details of Emergency Lighting Installationb. Details of Emergency Lighting Testing and Maintenance Arrangements (internal and external contractor)c. Monthly Emergency Lighting Testing Recordsd. Emergency Lighting Inspection, Maintenance and Test Records (supplied by external contractor)

Fire Safety Management Plan

11	Sprinklers a. Details of Sprinkler System Installation b. Details of Sprinkler System Testing and Maintenance Regime c. Schematic Drawings (supplied by external contractor)
12	Evacuation Equipment a. Type, Make and Model and Location b. Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Regime
13	High Risk Areas
14	Fire Safety Training Arrangements
15	Key Fire Safety Contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal• External
16	Fire Safety Enforcement Visits / Correspondence a) Summary of Visits b) Summary of Correspondence Received c) Copies of correspondence received (external agencies)
17	General Fire Safety Information

Patient Evacuation

- Do they stay, do they go?
- Again, differences of opinion
- Different systems in place in each hospice but none of them planned for full evacuation of patients
- Some hospice building designs did not facilitate the evacuation of patients
- Conflicting advice from local fire services



Solution(s)

- Contacted Chief Fire Officers Association for clarification
- They confirmed that we have to plan for full evacuation of patients and that this should be done through a phased evacuation process
- Three hospices where vertical evacuation is required had their lifts modified for use in an emergency and additional compartmentation introduced
- Vertical patient evacuation equipment also introduced

Solution(s)

- Phased patient evacuation procedures introduced:
 - Stage 1 – investigation
 - Stage 2 – horizontal evacuation (and vertical in some cases)
 - Stage 3 – full evacuation
- “Clinical” fire marshals established and training programme introduced

Where are we now....

- Three rounds of “new” fire risk assessment programme completed
- Physical and equipment standards have significantly improved and consistent approach now in place
- Operational standards have significantly improved
- Relationships with local fire officers significantly improved
- Still some outstanding fire remedial works to be carried out (budget requested for 2015)
- Fire safety policy requires review and update (in particular in relation to HTM 05 for hospices)

Thank you for listening

Any questions?

