

# Learning Objectives

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. Action to take if fire breaks out or smoke is detected
  6. Identify the types of fire extinguishers used in different situations
  7. Evacuation procedures and associated escape routes
- ⊗ You will require further practical training to include evacuation procedures and use of fire fighting equipment

# Why is this important?

In England in 2012-2013.....

- ♣ Fire & Rescue services attended 154,000 fires
- ♣ 271 deaths
- ♣ 3,830 injuries
- ♣ Approximately 1,500 fires on NHS premises in 2011/12 (Health and Social Care Information Centre)



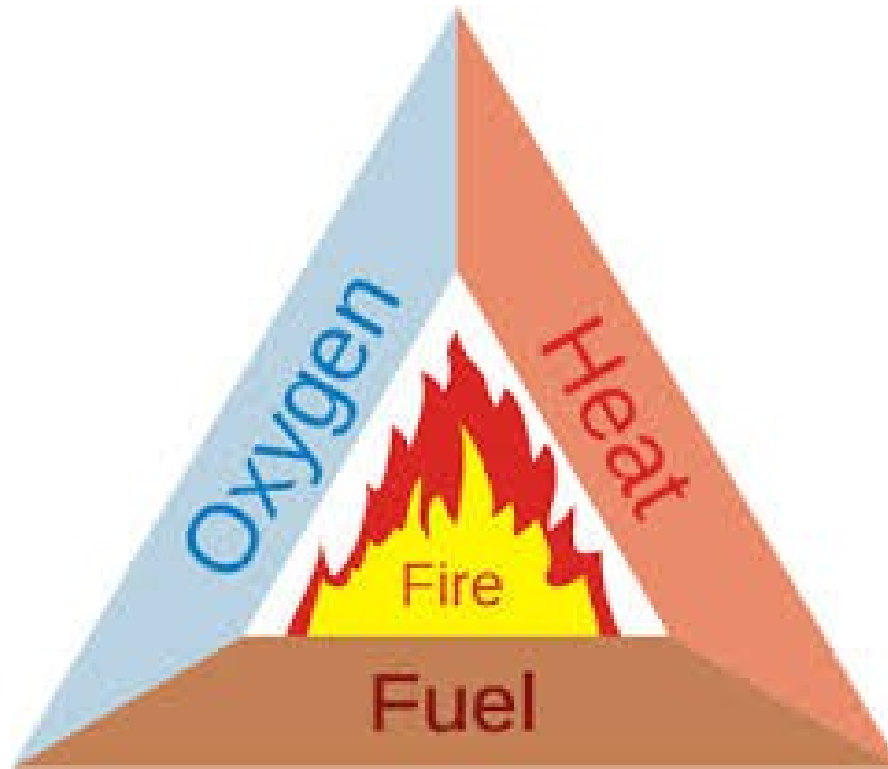
# What is fire?

- ♣ 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”**

# Triangle of Combustion



# Fire Hazards

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

# Smoking

♣ The clinic operates a

STRICT  
NO SMOKING POLICY



# Flammable liquids, gases and chemicals

- ♣ Everyday cleaning products
- ♣ Chemicals and gases
- ♣ C.O.S.H.H.
- ♣ Flammables should be clearly labelled and stored securely away from heat
- ♣ Take care with gas cylinders



# Medical Oxygen

Makes 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 wrongly
- ♣ Look for signs of damage, overheating or notworking properly.
- ♣ Make sure equipment is tested
- ♣ If in any doubt, SWITCH OFF, REPORT AND LABEL
- ♣ Let others know about the fault



# Clutter

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



**“Always keep fire ”escape routes clear**

# Arson

- ♣ Health care premises are an easy target
- ♣ Be on your guard
- ♣ Contact the police



# Risk Assessment

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 demands that all organisations carry out regular and timely risk assessments

- ♣ You must familiarise yourself with the clinic's Fire Safety Policy and Risk Assessment.
- ♣ Become accustomed with the location of fire equipment, fire exits and the evacuation protocol for your working area.

# Protective Measures

- ♣ Fire doors (30 minute minimum protection)
- ♣ Fire alarms
- ♣ Fire signage
- ♣ Emergency lighting
- ♣ Fire fighting equipment
- ♣ Evacuation procedures



# 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

## **Locations:**

- ♣ Downstairs in waiting area near to main entrance/exit**
- ♣ Downstairs next to rear fire exit**
- ♣ Upstairs on upstairs landing**

# RED (Water fire extinguisher)

- **Suitable for solid fires and safe for use on paper, wood and textiles.**
- **Ordinary water fire extinguishers should not be used on fires with electrical equipment**





# CREAM – Foam Fire Extinguisher

**Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids such as petrol and effective in preventing re-ignition**



# BLACK – CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon dioxide) Extinguisher

**Very effective on fires  
of computer equipment  
and various other  
electrical appliances**



# Actions to take in the event of fire

- ♣ Raise the alarm (verbally, if the smoke alarm has not yet been activated)
- ♣ 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
- ♣ Direct fire brigade on arrival
- ♣ Congregate outside the clinic railings on Park Road and await further information from attending fire team

# You must know:

- ♣ What the emergency number is? ( **“999”** )
- ♣ Where the escape routes are?  
( **Ground floor main door and rear fire escape** )
- ♣ How will the patients be moved?  
(Staff will assist patients
- ♣ What are the security arrangements?
- ♣ Each type of alarm signal?
- ♣ When are alarm test days?

# Don't forget about..

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



# Summary

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