

### 9 Reasons to RACE

UK Hospital healthcare and business occupancies have had 9 fires since December 16, 2004--a statistic that underscores the need for every employee to know basic fire response procedures.

1. December 16, 2004, 4:08 a.m. Dryer fire in Hospital basement
2. March 21, 2005, 1:28 p.m. Vehicle fire in parking garage
3. April 2, 2005, 8:48 a.m. Trash can fire in parking garage
4. April 16, 2005, 4:00 p.m. Ashtray fire on 3 West patio
5. April 26, 2005, 4:48 p.m. Mulch fire at KY Clinic North
6. June 10, 2005, 6:37 a.m. Bed fire on 6<sup>th</sup> floor Hospital
7. July 8, 2005, 11:29 p.m. Trash can fire outside ED
8. September 9, 2005, 8:01 a.m. Mulch fire at KY Clinic North
9. October 19, 2005, 1:00 a.m. Exhaust fan caught fire in Hospital Accounting offices

**How many reasons do you need?**

## Fire Safety is Mandatory

The Hospital conducts fire drills monthly in compliance with JCAHO standards. But JCAHO isn't the reason the Hospital has drills.

### The real reason: FIRES HAPPEN.

UK Hospital has had 9 fires in less than a year. All of them were fairly minor. Many were outside the building. All of these fires could have turned into real emergencies if hospital employees had not responded quickly and appropriately.

That kind of effective response doesn't happen by accident. It takes education, training, and practice.

### Fire is Fast

When fire breaks out, it can take as little as three minutes to go from a single flame to a raging inferno. The phenomenon is called "flashover"—the air becomes so hot that it ignites every combustible in the room.

Three minutes isn't very much time to act. In order to ensure that a smoldering mattress or a burning trash can doesn't turn into a disaster, Hospital employees have to know what to do—without having to consult a reference or ask a co-worker.

Knowing the acronym RACE, isn't enough. Employees have to be able to respond to a fire—step-by step.

### Fire Drill Scores Fall Below Standard

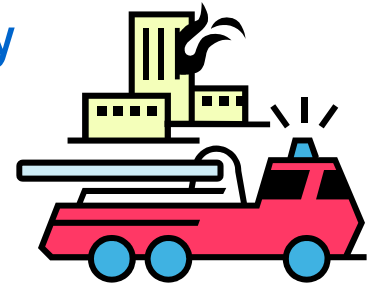
The Hospital measures the employees' ability to respond to a fire emergency through fire drills. They are practice sessions and tests all rolled into one.

During recent fire drills, many employees have failed to demonstrate an ability to respond quickly and effectively to a fire.

In September and October, the average fire drill score was 82%. One area scored 100%. Ten out of 17 areas scored below the standard of 90%. One area scored 42%. Truth be told, anything less than 100% should be deemed unacceptable.

### Fire safety is mandatory.

Knowing what to do in a fire is mandatory, not optional, for all Hospital employees. If you don't know, you're not meeting basic job requirements.



## State Fire Marshal Inspection in December

The state fire marshal will inspect the Hospital December 6-7, 2005.

During the two-day tour, the fire marshal will:

- Test fire and smoke doors
- Inspect above the ceilings for penetrations
- Look at exit routes and signage
- Inspect fire extinguishers
- Inspect corridors
- Examine storage areas
- Review fire drill documentation
- Review maintenance inspection, and testing records.
- Inspect grease filters
- Talk with employees.

## New Safety Officer Named

Sharon Berry has accepted the position of Hospital Safety Officer, effective November 13, 2005. Sharon has worked in Infection Control—first as a tech, then as a nurse—for 25 years.

The Safety office will move to H113A. The phone number, 323-5734, and pager number, 259-6690, will remain the same.

## Fire Safety is Mandatory *(continued from page 1)*

Here's what you need to know to function safely in this environment:

- Basic fire response procedure
- Fire code
- Location of fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguishers, medical gas valves, area of refuge
- How to use a fire extinguisher
- Procedure for medical gas shut off (if you are involved in patient care)
- Your role in evacuation
- Location of equipment and supplies needed in evacuation



If you don't have this information or don't know how to use it in an emergency, the time to learn is now.

## Fire Alarm Now Uses Continuous Chimes

You may have noticed an "alarming" change in the way fire alarms are announced in Hospital patient care buildings. Effective this month, the Hospital is using continuous chimes to signal that a fire alarm is in progress.

### Change Required by Fire Marshal

For years, the Hospital silenced the chimes after making the "Green Grass" announcement. That practice was an exception to the rule that the fire marshal has required us to change.

The reason for the change is simple: Building occupants must remain vigilant and aware of the potential need for emergency response until the alarm is cleared by the fire department.

### To Reduce Irritation, Reduce False Alarms

The best way to decrease the noise associated with fire alarms—and the irritation that it causes—is to reduce the number of false alarms.

False alarms have almost doubled in the last year. PPD is working hard to reduce the false alarms associated with faulty smoke detectors and construction. The Environment of Care Committee is investigating the possibility of covering all fire alarm pull stations in the building to reduce the number of false alarms caused by mischief—someone pulling the alarm when there is no fire or smoke.

Our job is to reduce the number of false alarms caused by microwaves to zero and to report any one who is smoking in a "No Smoking" area—inside or out—to Security or other appropriate personnel.

### Fire Safety is Serious Business

The chimes sound continuously during a fire alarm situation to remind us just how serious it is.

