



Specialist Estates Services Notification 18/06

3 July 2018

For action by:

Board Level Directors (Fire), NHS Health Boards and Trusts

For information only:

Chief Executives, NHS Health Boards and Trusts
Estates and Facilities Directors and Managers
Fire Safety Managers
Fire Advisors
Copy to: Head of Capital Estates and Facilities
Department of Health and Social Care, Welsh Government

Dear Colleague

FIRE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DIRECT SUNLIGHT

BACKGROUND

Two incidents have been reported in the NHS in Wales which are directly attributed to the concentration of the sun's rays through everyday objects seen in the office environment and in hospitals, staff residences and similar.

These incidents both occurred as a result of the sun's rays being concentrated by a glass paperweight and a mirror respectively. Both incidents were spotted at an early stage, which prevented the incidents developing further.

The purpose of this SESN is to raise awareness across the NHS in Wales in order to prevent any future incidents of this nature. It is recommended that Health Boards and Trusts raise the awareness of the possibility of this type of incident occurring.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION

The following simple measures should be implemented which will reduce or eliminate the risk of an incident occurring.

- Keep all mirrors out of direct sunlight.

- Ensure all glass ornaments, glass paperweights and similar items are kept out of direct sunlight.

Health Boards should ensure that awareness of this issue is raised across NHS staff in Wales as a matter of urgency during this current spell of hot weather.

Any enquiries on the content of this letter should be addressed to Gareth Lloyd, Fire Safety Advisor on 029 2090 4119 or e-mail Gareth.Lloyd6@wales.nhs.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NH Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

NH Davies BSc (Hons), Dip Proj Man (RICS), MBA, MCIQB, FIHEEM
Director Specialist Estates Services

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