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Shared Services
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Specialist Estates Services

Specialist Estates Services Notification 19/03

4 March 2019

For action by:

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

For information only:

Chief Executives

Estates/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

Attached documents:

NHS Estate in Wales - Fire statistics report: Fire incidents and unwanted fire signals 2018

Dear Colleague,

NHS ESTATE IN WALES - FIRE STATISTICS REPORT

FIRE INCIDENTS AND UNWANTED FIRE SIGNALS 2018

The attached report reviews the fire incidents and unwanted fire signals (UwFS) reported by the NHS health boards and Trusts in Wales through the online Fire and UwFS Incident Reporting System, as mandated in WHC (2006) 74 and WHTM 05-03 Part H: *Reducing false alarms in healthcare premises*.

During the twelve month period between 1st January 2018 and 31st December 2018, a total of 60 fire incidents and 1709 UwFS were reported to NWSSP – Specialist Estates Services. The number of reported fire incidents decreased by 6%, likewise the number of UwFS also decreased by 8% compared with the previous year's figures.

With regard to the fire incidents the most prominent cause is attributed to some form of electrical failure, followed by arson related incidents primarily occurring in the mental health sector.

In terms of UwFS, prominent causes include; other environmental effects, cooking and system faults. The report also draws attention to manual call point activations and the frequency of contractor related incidents.

Accordingly, the report emphasises the necessity for Healthcare organisations to continue with their endeavours to mitigate these adverse incidents including the following actions:

- Ensure that electrical appliances and fixed wiring installations are tested and maintained in accordance with the relevant standards.
- Review the fire safety management arrangements for mental health facilities, with particular emphasis on control of ignition sources.
- Review the provision of protective covers to manual call points.
- Ensure cooking related activities are not left unattended and only occur in designated cooking areas.
- Ensure that there are efficient methods in place for the isolation and control of fire alarm systems where contractors are at work to prevent unnecessary actuation of the alarm system through the activities of contractors.
- Ensure that the named '*responsible person*' for the detection and alarm systems, as referenced in BS 5839-1:2017 *Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings code of practice for system design, installation, commissioning and maintenance*, has robust maintenance regimes in place for all detection and alarm systems, in accordance with BS5839.
- Ensure all incidents are accurately investigated and reported in accordance with 'WHTM 05/03 *Part H: Reducing false alarms in healthcare premises*' and, where applicable, influence future fire management procedures.
- Continue to monitor and manage the occurrence of UwFS in line with the performance scoring facility, outlined in 'WHTM 05/03 *Part H: Reducing false alarms in healthcare premises*' and the online incident reporting system as required by WHEN 10/03.
- Ensure the fire response procedures reflect the mobilisation arrangements adopted by the fire and rescue service.

For those with access to the NHS Wales intranet, the full report is available from the Publications page of the NWSSP-SES intranet site and may be viewed [HERE](#).

Any enquiries on the content of this letter or the Fire and UwFS Incident Reporting System should be addressed to Anthony Pitcher, Senior Fire Safety Advisor on 029 2090 4120 or e-mail Anthony.Pitcher@wales.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NH Davies". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

NH Davies BSc (Hons), Dip Proj Man (RICS), MBA, MCIQB, FIHEEM

Director Specialist Estates Services

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