

Fire Safety Initiative

Introduction:

As part of LTHT's continued efforts in preparedness to deal with fire incidents and cope with the aftermath, the Fire Safety Team want to commence an initiative on preparing "salvage plans" for use by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS).

Recent fires in London and the resultant report into them, has shown that the NHS's ability to provide immediate continuity of care and business continuity is essential. Simplified "salvage plans" are a list of high value assets in Wards/Depts that would be essential in the achievement of continuity of care or services. High value assets could be;

- Items, not necessarily of high monetary value, but essential, 1 off items of equipment or items the Trust has few off,
- Items that are of high monetary value,
- Samples, e.g. those in Reproductive Medicine or biopsies in labs.

The above list is by no means exhaustive but to serve as a "thought provoker" to start **STAFF** thinking about this issue.

"Salvage plans" are designed to be put in place during emergency incidents by WYFRS, the plans would be developed by the Trust, but in the main carried out by Fire Service personnel, effectively LTHT have pre-prepared plans showing locations of assets and the Fire Service personnel remove or protect them as appropriate during emergency incidents. Salvage plans could be implemented under the following conditions:

- Immediate threat of fire or smoke in a Ward/Dept area,
- Water damage from fire fighting activities in the Ward/Dept where the fire is adjacent areas,
- Removal of items from fire incident area or adjoining areas to allow staff to provide continuity of care or business continuity.

What does LTHT need to do?

Initially:

- Decide what are high value items and by Ward/Dept compile simple, understandable records that LTHT can present to WYFRS during incidents,
- Trial how we compile this information and collate it in a selection of Wards/Dept across LTHT – as Fire Safety Manager I would like to use the following areas:

1. A Medical Records Dept,
2. A lab that deals with high value, 1 off difficult to replace samples or biopsies,
3. A General Ward,
4. Bexley Wing Radiotherapy Dept,
5. An Out Patients Dept,
6. Delivery Suite,
7. An ICU,
8. A Theatre.

I am very much looking for Wards/Depts to take a lead in this, as the Fire Team need guidance on what **YOU**, as staff working in these areas think should be included in salvage plans.

Volunteer areas would be great, the above list is not exhaustive and I am very much open to suggestions.

If you would like to propose your Ward/Dept to take part in the initial trial of how LTHT best prepares these plans and develop “best practice”, along with the Fire Team, please contact me.

What does LTHT need to do?

Long term:

After completion of the above and the Fire Team has decided upon the format and WYFRS are happy with the proposed system, then it will need to be rolled out to all Wards/Depts across the LTHT. This will need ownership, especially in the preparation process, by staff in Wards/Dept areas, but once this an established system the benefits to LTHT and our ability to cope with emergencies will be embedded in Trust culture.

Please could I ask you discuss this information with your colleagues and let me know if you would like to take part in the initial trial of this initiative, or if you have any thoughts or experience in this area. Discussions with other Healthcare providers and WYFRS indicate this is a new initiative for Hospitals and WYFRS are very willing to help us develop this.

Thank you
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