



HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

STORAGE OF FIRE KIT

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CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Equality And Inclusion**
- 3. Aims And Objectives**
- 4. Full-time Fire Kit Storage**
- 5. On-Call Fire Kit Storage**
- 6. Resilience Fire Kit**

1. INTRODUCTION

Fire kit storage on station is different on a full-time station compared to that on an on-call station; as such these arrangements are intended to provide line managers and supervisors adequate guidance to ensure that potential hazards are controlled in a reasonably practicable manner.

The Service has a duty under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations) to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that suitable and sufficient facilities are in place to effectively meet the Service's duties under relevant statutory provisions and its own policies, guidance and National Operational Guidance (NOG)

Should personnel suspect that they have been exposed to and contaminated by a hazardous substance, then current arrangements must be adhered to (for further information see the Decontamination NOG).

Current arrangements should in the first instance mitigate the likelihood of hazardous materials being brought onto the fire engine and also reduce the likelihood even further of such hazardous substances being brought into the Station or Service premises. "Soiled" fire kit is kit that is **not** contaminated by materials which may be classified as hazardous (e.g. asbestos) but requires cleaning after it is soiled e.g. muddy. It is the individual's responsibility to assess whether their fire kit is "soiled" or not and comply with guidance regarding the laundry process. These arrangements can be reviewed under the related policies.

Individuals may be instructed to send their kit for dry cleaning by their supervisor or line manager when necessary.

2. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

HFRS has a legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, and a commitment, to ensure it does not discriminate either directly or indirectly in any of its functions and services nor in its treatment of staff, in relation to race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, gender reassignment or marriage and civil partnership. It also has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants, employees and service users.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide and maintain formal planning and implementing arrangements to prevent potential harm associated with the storage of fire kit, taking account of specific legal issues relevant to the Service. Ensuring we have suitable and sufficient systems in place to minimise the hazards and risks

4. FULL-TIME FIRE KIT

The oncoming watch will gather their fire kit and place it next to engine/within the engine bay in anticipation of being deployed.

Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Version 3.0 September 2020	Not Protectively Marked	3 of 4
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The potential cross contamination of fire kit and personal clothing is greatly reduced on full-time stations as there is a clear separation between fire kit and personal clothing by the very nature of where the two types of kit is stored during shifts.

Soiled fire kit will be changed for another set of fire kit that has been issued to the individual. The soiled fire kit will then be sent for dry cleaning. If necessary extra fire kit can be obtained from stores.

5. ON-CALL FIRE KIT STORAGE

- a) Tunics will be stored on a hook affixed on the outside of lockers.
- b) Leggings and firefighting boots will be stored in the bottom boot locker were applicable, or outside the locker, but not within the main section of a locker.
- c) Working rig or personal clothing must not be placed on top of fire tunics hung on the outside of lockers.
- d) operationally, fire kit including boots must be cleaned prior to stowing as described above. Following a period when fire kit has been worn i.e. a training session or
- e) Fire kit which requires replacing must be changed for another set of fire kit that has been issued to the individual. The soiled fire kit will then be sent for dry cleaning. If necessary extra fire kit can be obtained from stores.
- f) No fire kit must be left in a soiled state when stowing it away as described above.

6. RESILIENCE FIRE KIT

- Resilience crews will collect fire kit from their specified barracks at the commencement of deployment. Fire kit will be left on fire engines at the end of resilience deployment and delivered to Stores.
- Resilience firefighting kit will be laundered when it is deemed to be *soiled*.
- Replacement kit will be made available from stores and soiled kit will go away for laundering
- The same conditions apply if the kit is contaminated, or believe to have been contaminated, by a hazardous substance, (for further information see the Decontamination NOG).
- By adhering to the above guidance, the likelihood of personal clothing becoming soiled as a result of coming into contact with soiled fire kit should be mitigate.

If you require further guidance on this document, please contact the Health, Safety & Environment Team