

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2004/33

Issued: 2 July 2004

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION REQUEST	



**NORTHERN
IRELAND
ADVERSE
INCIDENT
CENTRE**

	Section								
Medical Device/Equipment: Fire Extinguisher – Water and Foam (supplied between May 2002 and October 2003)	▶ ①								
Problem: Cracked discharge hose.	▶ ②								
Action by: Persons with special responsibility for health and safety, in accordance with local procedures, should ensure that this Alert is brought to the attention of appropriate staff.	▶ ③								
Action: Replace rubber hose.	▶ ④								
Distributed by NIAIC to: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td style="width: 50%;">General Medical Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust</td> <td>General Dental Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each Agency</td> <td>Community Pharmacists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NIAIC Liaison Officers</td> <td>Hospices</td> </tr> </table>	Chief Executive of each HSS Board	General Medical Practitioners	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust	General Dental Practitioners	Chief Executive of each Agency	Community Pharmacists	NIAIC Liaison Officers	Hospices	▶ ⑤
Chief Executive of each HSS Board	General Medical Practitioners								
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Contacts Manufacturer details and NIAIC contacts.	▶ ⑥								
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None Required	▶ ⑦								

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Fire Extinguisher – Water and Foam
(supplied between May 2002 and October 2003)

2. PROBLEM:

NIAIC have been made aware by NHS Estates of a Trust who have discovered that all discharge hoses on their 6 litre AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam) fire extinguishers have cracked (see photographs)

Chubb have investigated the problem and concluded that the subject hoses were manufactured between May 2002 and October 2003.

Chubb have carried out tests on the hoses and found that there are no immediate safety implications.

3. ACTION BY:

Persons with special responsibility for health and safety, in accordance with local procedures, should ensure that this Alert is brought to the attention of appropriate staff who should take action.

4. ACTION:

Organisations with no service contract with Chubb.

- No immediate action is required.
- Pass this Alert to your service company/internal department.
- At the next annual service, advise the service engineer to record locations of Chubb (water and foam) extinguishers with defective hoses (see photographs). Also, check spare Chubb hoses if any.
- Check that the extinguishers /spares were supplied between May 2002 and October 2003.
- Contact Chubb, who will provide free new replacement hoses for those that they have supplied, for others to fit.

Organisations with service contract with Chubb.

- No immediate action is required.
- Chubb is aware of the problem.
- At the next service visit, Chubb engineer will identify defective hoses. Also, check spare hoses if any.
- Chubb will replace hoses on extinguishers/spare hoses they have supplied between May 2002 and October 2003 free of charge.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Estates Managers
- Fire Officers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through HSS Board R&I Units

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to the manufacturer should be addresses to:

Lyn Randall
Quality Co-ordinator
Chubb Fire Ltd
Sunbury on Thames
Middlesex
TW16 7AR

Tel: (01932) 776737
Fax: (01932) 789323

Email: Lyn.Randall@chubb.co.uk

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2004/33 and be addressed to:
Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US

Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None Required



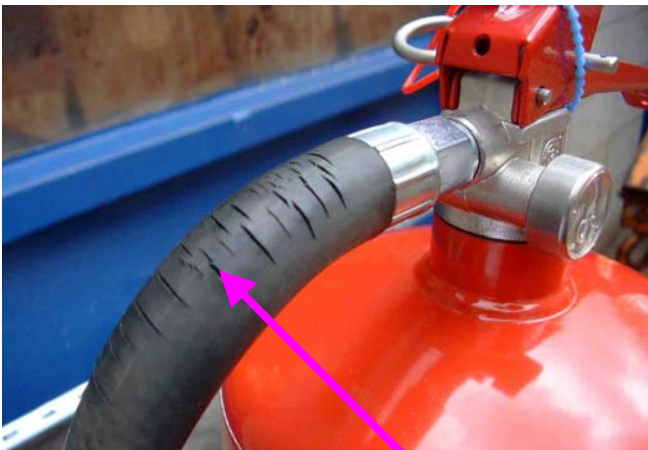
Brian Godfrey
NIAIC Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2004/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Perished Hose
Foam Extinguisher shown.
However similar problem
exists on water extinguisher



Radial Cracks