

Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

Saving Lives, Protecting Property

Bad battery to blame for maternity ward fire in Richmond University Medical Center

Staten Island Advance (Staten Island, NY)

May 15, 2014

STATEN ISLAND - A Richmond University Medical Center official said a failing battery was to blame for a fire that drew a large response from the FDNY late this past Wednesday morning. An executive from the hospital said that the battery was part of a "mobile workstation," which was located in a storage room. The battery ignited a fire just after 11:00AM, and hospital employees quickly contained the fire with an extinguisher. The FDNY responded to the fire in three minutes, and brought smoke caused by the incident under control. The fire did not cause any injuries, or force an evacuation of any part of the hospital. Operations were back to normal in about 20 minutes.

"Portable extinguishers and extinguishing systems are vitally important pieces of a comprehensive fire safety strategy. Studies have indicated that most will attempt to extinguish an incipient fire, and portable fire extinguishers should be their tool of choice."

- Adolf Zubia, President
Fire & Life Safety Section, IAFC

Thomas Township employee put out small fire in light ballast that caused office evacuation

Saginaw News (Saginaw, MI)

May 14, 2014

THOMAS TOWNSHIP - The Thomas Township Fire Department responded to the scene of an electrical fire at



Call fire department;
Announce fire/alert
others; Make sure
everyone is safe.



Defend
in place



Fire/smoke
alarm sounds



Suppression
system
activates



Sprinkler
system
activates



Fire
department
responds

the Thomas Township office complex this past Wednesday, just after 3:00PM. The fire was contained to the light ballast, and caused an evacuation that lasted about 20 minutes. An employee of the Thomas Township municipal office used a fire extinguisher to put out the small fire, according to a fire department official. The fire department responded to make sure the fire was out and to ventilate the building. Firefighters also investigated the cause, which was confirmed to be an electrical issue.

Wall fan sparks fire at recreation center

Sequim Gazette (Sequim, WA)

May 13, 2014

SEQUIM - A malfunctioning wall fan in the pool area at the Sequim Aquatic Recreation Center caused a fire this past Monday afternoon. Personnel from Clallam County Fire District 3 responded to the facility at about 2:45PM and discovered that a wall fan, used to circulate air in the pool area, had malfunctioned and had caught fire. SARC staff had already used a fire extinguisher to put out the small fire, which scorched a small section of wall near the pool's water slide. Firefighters examined the wall and the electrical outlet, ultimately determining that it was safe for guests to re-enter the building; the evacuation lasted less than 15 minutes, according to fire district officials. The fan was destroyed and damage to the building was cosmetic.

"A sound fire safety strategy has to include portable extinguishers. They can extinguish fires during the incipient stage before they are large enough to trigger a sprinkler or other suppression system. This helps to protect against property damage and the buildup of dangerous smoke."

- Joe Pierce, Retired Deputy Chief
Dallas, Texas Fire Department

Residents at Phoenix apartment complex help save neighbors from fire

KTVK 3 (Phoenix, AZ)

May 12, 2014

PHOENIX - Early this past Monday morning, residents at a Phoenix apartment complex helped to save the lives of neighbors after their apartment caught on fire. The fire broke out around 3:00AM. Residents of another apartment within the complex noticed the smoke, alerted the apartment's occupants, and grabbed a fire extinguisher to combat the flames. One of the assisting neighbors broke the glass enclosure for the extinguisher. Another neighbor then broke a window and contained the flames with the fire extinguisher until firefighters arrived. Fire officials believe that the fire started in the kitchen. Nobody involved was seriously injured.



Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association 101

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is the premier trade association representing leading brands, and spanning dozens of product categories related to fire protection. The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is comprised of four divisions represented by product categories: portable fire extinguishers, interior equipment, fire hose and pre-engineered suppression systems. These divisions work together in an effort to promote Layered Fire Protection, Life Safety and initial response when disaster strikes. Members of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association have formed a subgroup, the Government Relations Committee (GRC), to address legislative and regulatory issues relating to portable fire extinguishers and pre-engineered systems. The GRC's main goals focus on helping to educate officials by advancing a layered fire safety philosophy that reflects the need for both sprinklers and portable extinguishers. This newsletter is published periodically to communicate to key members of the fire services and code officials on the importance of layered fire safety and the role that special application fire suppression systems and portable extinguishers play.