

**HUT – FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT – (AGNES SPENCER MEMORIAL HUT)
15/03/2023**

STEP 1 - IDENTIFY FIRE HAZARDS	
SOURCES OF IGNITION	<p>The main potential sources of ignition are the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-fuel stove in living room area – e.g. by burning material falling onto the carpet. Electric cookers 2 – e.g., a chip pan fire or combustible material stored too close An electrical fault – such as shorting out <p>Note – there is no gas supply – bottled or mains at the property Smoking in not permitted in the Hut. There are no portable heaters</p>
SOURCES OF FUEL	<p>There are the stocks in the Hut of combustibles such as fire-lighters and paint The carpet could catch fire if a burning ember fell from the stove onto it or if furniture was placed against the stove. Similarly, if the stove was used for drying clothes. Paper based ceiling & walls in dormitories no longer exist.</p>
STEP 2 – IDENTIFY PEOPLE AT RISK	
PEOPLE AT RISK	<p>People at risk are exclusively hut users – members or guests. However, this includes some elderly people (70+) plus young children on occasions when the hut is used for a family meet.</p> <p>Note – other than on scheduled family dates the hut can only be used by people aged 18 and older and 14 and older if accompanied by an adult / guardian.</p>

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STEP 3 – EVALUATE, REMOVE OR REDUCE, AND PROTECT FROM RISK	
EVALUATE THE RISK OF A FIRE STARTING	<p>The heating stove is a potential risk but the risk is addressed by the following The current stove fully complies with HEATAS regulations. This includes fire risk minimisation features such as a single door to the front of the stove which has to be closed for the stove to operate, a wide hearth in front to protect against burning material falling on the carpet and only three control levers to make it as simple as possible for people to use the stove safely and effectively. The stove was expressly chosen with regard to safety and simplicity of use. The stove can be surrounded by a fireguard when children use the hut. There is a risk of a fire from people using the stove to dry clothes but we have addressed this by placing a sign on the notice board alerting people to the fire risk of doing this and making it clear that people must use the dedicated drying cupboard instead. All nails & screws have been removed from the beams above the stove, preventing hut users from hanging items from them.</p> <p>In respect of the two electric cookers there could be a risk of a fire starting from lack of due care and attention but specific risks such as chip pan fires or combustible material stored too close to the electric rings have been addressed. There is no chip pan available and storage shelves and tea towels and other combustible materials are positioned well away from the cooking rings. There may be a risk of fire starting from an electrical fault but we have addressed this by having electrical systems inspected and certificated every five years. This is in addition to the annual PAT testing.</p> <p>It has been identified that there is a small risk of a fire being associated with sources of combustible material such as the stock of fire-lighters. This has been addressed by storing highly flammable material from the cupboard under the staircase in the living room in a metal tin & boxes..</p>
EVALUATE THE RISK TO PEOPLE FROM A FIRE	<p>There is an emergency lighting system and fire alarm system installed in the Hut which is inspected and certificated annually. However, there are four risk areas identified.</p> <p>(1) There may be risk to people in the event of a fire who try to exit the Hut by the main door and find that it has been locked from the inside. To address this, the front door lock</p>

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EVALUATE THE RISK TO PEOPLE FROM A FIRE	<p>can be opened from the inside without a key.</p> <p>(2) A further risk is if the downstairs room became smoke filled and people became confused and disorientated as to the direction of the emergency fire exit. To address this, we have had an additional illuminated fire exit sign placed on the wall of the main room with a direction arrow pointing to where the fire exit is located.</p> <p>(3) Within the main room downstairs there is a storage cupboard which is below the stairs that gives access from upstairs to the fire exit. A risk has been identified of a fire in this area spreading to the stairs and obstructing escape by people upstairs. We have addressed this by having the cupboard fire boarded and a fire door put on so as to give fire delay of an hour.</p> <p>(4) A risk was identified of an instance where a fire began on the ground floor and setting alight the ceiling of the main room and sleeping areas upstairs. To address this, we have had fire boarding fastened to the ceiling of the main room to give a fire delay of one hour. The kitchen ceiling is also plaster-boarded to an equivalent standard..</p>
STEP 4 – RECORD, PLAN, INFORM, INSTRUCT AND TRAIN	
RECORD ANY MAJOR FINDINGS AND ACTION THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN	All findings and action are reported and minuted at meetings of the Cleveland Mountaineering Club and to the Hut Trustees.
DISCUSS AND WORK WITH OTHER RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE	Professional advice is sought when necessary and suitably experienced and qualified contractors employed to implement actions above the level of simple DIY work where necessary.
PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN – INFORM AND INSTRUCT RELEVANT PEOPLE	An evacuation plan in the event of a fire is displayed in the hut and will be available on the Cleveland Mountaineering Club website. A copy is sent to all groups who book the Hut.
STEP 5 REVIEW	
REVIEW THE FIRE-RISK ASSESSMENT	The fire risk assessment will be reviewed every twelve months by the Cleveland

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REGULARLY AND MAKE CHANGES
WHERE NECESSARY

Mountaineering Club Committee. Visit made by Fire officer 25/08/22. Minor recommendations were made.