

Use of vaping devices in an oxygen-rich environment – increased fire risk

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What happened?

A fire occurred in a hospital ward where oxygen therapy was in use. The health board reported that the fire was caused by a spark or overheating of a patient's vaping device.

What do we know?

Oxygen, even at low flow rates, can saturate items such as clothing, bedding, upholstered furniture, curtains, and carpets, creating a fire risk.

Vaping devices may pose a hazard if used in an oxygen-rich environment.

Further fire safety guidance on oxygen use:-

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service guidance](#)

[Estates and facilities alert EFA/2018/007](#)

[Fire Safety - General Fire Precautions and Training \(SHTM 83\)](#)

How can this be prevented?

1. Health boards should not permit the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or vaping devices:
 - during oxygen therapy
 - or in an oxygen enriched environment.
2. Vaping devices should be switched off when not in use to prevent accidental activation.

If you become aware of an adverse incident or near miss, or if you have a safety concern about a piece of equipment, report it to IRIC (details below). Incidents and near misses should also be reported to your local incident reporting and learning system which you might know as InPhase, Datix or Ulyses.

IRIC Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre

To find safety alerts: scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



To report an incident: scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)

