

Fire Safety

Standard FMS.06.00

The hospital establishes and implements a program for fire safety that complies with national and local codes, laws, and regulations.

Intent of FMS.06.00

Hospitals must be vigilant about fire safety, as fire is an ever-present risk in the health care environment. To protect all occupants of the hospital's facilities from fire and smoke, the hospital develops and implements a written program for fire safety.

An ongoing assessment of compliance with the country's codes, laws, and regulations related to fire safety is important for identifying and minimizing risks.

An interim measure(s) may be necessary when the planned improvement to address the fire safety risk cannot be implemented right away. The purpose of implementing interim measures is to ensure the safety of the building's occupants during times when features and systems for fire safety are defective, compromised, or inoperable due to construction, maintenance, or a breakdown or repair. The type of and need for an interim measure(s) will depend on the type and scope of the fire safety risk and the amount of time until the planned improvement to fully address the risk will be implemented.

The fire safety program includes criteria for evaluating when and to what extent interim measures should be implemented.

Examples of interim measures include posting signs to identify alternative exits; inspecting exits/exit routes on a daily basis in the affected area; providing temporary but equivalent fire alarm and detection systems when a system is impaired; providing additional firefighting equipment; increasing fire safety surveillance of buildings, grounds, and equipment; and providing additional training of staff on the use of firefighting equipment; among other interim measures.

The hospital considers the risk posed to patients, staff, and others when determining the plan and time frame for implementing improvements and/or interim measures. The ongoing risk assessment and time frame for implementing interim measures and improvements are documented.

Note: A list of additional interim measures can be found in the "Interim Measures" appendix in this manual.

Measurable Elements of FMS.06.00

1. ⑩ The hospital develops and implements a written program for fire safety to protect all occupants of the hospital's facilities from fire and smoke emergencies.
2. ⑩ The fire safety program includes implementing interim measures, when necessary, to ensure that the safety of the hospital's patients, staff, and visitors is maintained when fire safety risks cannot be immediately addressed.
3. ⑩ The hospital's comprehensive, facilitywide risk assessment as required by FMS.02.00, ME 1 includes evaluation of the following fire-related risks:
 - Fire separations
 - Smoke separations/compartments
 - Hazardous areas (and spaces above the ceilings in those areas) such as soiled linen rooms, trash collection rooms, and medical gas storage rooms
 - Fire exits
 - Kitchen and kitchen grease-producing cooking devices
 - Laundry and trash chutes
 - Emergency power systems and equipment
 - Medical gas and vacuum system components
 - Storage and handling of potentially flammable materials (for example, flammable liquids, combustible gases, oxidizing medical gases such as oxygen and nitrous oxide)
 - Procedures and precautions to prevent and manage surgical fires
 - Fire hazards related to construction, renovation, or demolition projects

Standard FMS.06.01

The hospital maintains fire safety equipment and fire safety building features.

Intent of FMS.06.01

Every hospital needs to plan how it will keep its occupants safe in case of fire and smoke emergencies. Health care facility structure and design can help prevent, detect, and suppress fires and provide safe exit from the facility. Hospitals are better prepared for fire emergencies when the fire safety program includes the early detection, suppression, and containment of fire and smoke and measures to ensure safe exit from the facility when fire and smoke emergencies occur.

The hospital's program for fire safety addresses the following:

- Early warning, early detection, and notification systems, such as smoke detectors, fire alarms, and fire patrols
- Suppression mechanisms that are appropriate for the area (for example, information technology rooms, electrical rooms) and type of fire to be expected, such as water hoses, fire extinguishers, chemical suppression systems, and sprinkler systems
- Containment of fire and smoke, including fire separations and smoke compartments, when required by local laws and regulations; features for containment of fire and smoke are maintained to ensure their effectiveness.
- Safe and unobstructed access to exits in the event of a fire or smoke emergency, including clear exit signage that is understandable to the hospital's occupants (for example, with a pictogram and/or language[s] that the majority of occupants understand) and emergency lighting

Features such as these give patients, staff, and visitors adequate time to safely exit the facility or reach a safe location within the facility in the event of fire or smoke emergencies. These features are effective no matter what the age, size, or construction of the facility.