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| Client fire risk behaviour assessment |
| Capital Development Guidelines – Series 7, Fire Risk Management, August 2013 |
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This form is used to assess client skills and behaviour relating to fire risk and the impact on their capacity to evacuate.

This form must be completed and reviewed yearly. Completed assessments for every client must be stored in the staff office, in accordance with 2013 Capital Development Guidelines Series 7 – Fire Risk Management.

If a client is identified as having fire risk behaviours or is known to light or have a fascination with fire, an alert must be noted in the client profile.

Clients may demonstrate behaviours ranging from an inability to use cooking appliances safely to dangerous fire lighting behaviour. Depending on the nature of the fire risk posed, several strategies should be considered to address the situation. Possible strategies are provided in this document.

A staff member familiar with the client must complete this form.

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| Residential facility address |  |
| Client initials / ID |  |
| Completed by house supervisor |  |
| Signed |  |
| Date |  |
| Next annual review date |  |

## Section A: High risk activities

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Does the client collect or hoard items in their room or elsewhere in the residence? |  |  |
| If so, are the items a fire risk? For example, cigarette lighters, matches, candles, paper. |  |  |
| Do fire, smoke, heating or cooking appliances attract the client’s attention? |  |  |
| Does the client have an unusual curiosity or obsession with fire? |  |  |
| Does the client smoke? |  |  |
| If so, is the client capable of smoking in a safe manner?  That is, handling cigarettes and matches or lighters properly, not smoking in the residence and only smoking in designated areas, properly extinguishing and disposing of cigarettes. |  |  |

Additional information or comments

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## Section B: Daily living activities

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|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Is the client able to use heating and cooking appliances? |  |  |
| If so, can the client use them safely and appropriately? |  |  |
| Does the client participate in other activities that involve the use of fire, such as barbequing? |  |  |
| If so, can the client do that safely and appropriately? |  |  |

Additional information or comments

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## Section C: Cognitive abilities

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Does the client understand the dangers and consequences of fire, gas, and associated appliances? |  |  |
| Does the client know what to do if there is a fire and can they follow evacuation procedures? |  |  |
| Is the client’s ability to act in a safe manner significantly affected by illness, medication, intellectual, physical, sensory disability or anything else? |  |  |

Additional information or comments

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## Section D: Communication skills

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Is the client able to communicate that they, or others, are in danger? |  |  |
| Is the client able to understand basic instructions such as go outside as part of an evacuation procedure? |  |  |

Additional information or comments

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## Section E: Conclusion

Summary of client skills and behaviour assessment and estimation of risk

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### Assessment response

Staff must complete an assessment for each client. The house supervisor much check and sign the completed assessments each year to ensure information is relevant and up to date.

When developing or reviewing a support plan, consider if this assessment needs to be reviewed.

Completed assessments serve as a fire risk profile for each client and should highlight any areas that need to be addressed. When completing the assessment, Section A: High risk activities should be given increased weighting.

Different strategies should be considered to address risk. Any behaviour issues should be documented and addressed in a Client Behaviour Support Plan.

### Procedures for staff when a client is assessed as having fire risk behaviour

### These procedures must be followed when a client is identified as having fire risk behaviours. It is also appropriate to discuss an assessment with families of respite clients.

### Risk prevention

All properties used by the Department for providing residential support must meet the standards under the Interim Fire and Emergency Procedures and Training Framework (FERPTF): https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergency-preparedness-and-response-procedures-and-training-framework.

1. Identified risks must have a control strategy implemented.
2. Staff must ensure that all regular required fire safety procedures and checks occur as required.
3. Flammable items must be stored correctly and registered in the hazardous substances register.
4. Lighters and matches must be securely stored.

### Intervention to change dangerous behaviours

These procedures are critical for clients whose behaviours include deliberate exploration of fire and fire lighting.

Make a referral to a specialist program to investigate, actively address behaviour, and implement proactive behaviour change strategies. Assistance may also be sought from:

1. Fire Rescue Victoria education programs such as [Firefighting Consequences Awareness Program.](https://www.frv.vic.gov.au/firelighting-consequence-awareness-program-fire-cap)
2. Consulting with a psychologist or consultant specialist, to be arranged by the service provider and Department of Health or Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (as appropriate).

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