

Safety Alert



Electrical Fire Safety OIF SA-003

Electrical safety and fire prevention are synonymous in our A/O. Without one, you won't have the other; and as in this case, you may not have equipment to fight with.

This week, MND-B experienced a fire that not only destroyed Soldiers' personal property and equipment; it limited that unit's ability to conduct full spectrum operations. The list of items lost is not only too long to mention, it is classified. This fire could have been prevented had someone just stood up and took charge. It only takes one Soldier or Leader to evaluate a situation and see that it is not safe. It also only takes one person to correct or improve the situation. As professional Soldiers we owe it to our Units and the Army to do everything we possibly can to protect our resources.

This fire is still under investigation, but it is believed that overloaded electrical wiring was the cause. This is not the first fire caused by overloading electrical circuits and if Soldiers and leaders do not take immediate actions to correct unsafe conditions, it won't be the last. We might not be as lucky with the next fire, we may lose a Soldier.

KBR is currently working to provide extinguisher servicing stations at the primary FOBs. This is expected to be in place toward the end of February. Initially this will be a drop off and pickup basis. Eventually it will become a one for one swap.

Hazards

Overloaded Electrical Wiring

Missing or Empty Extinguishers

Lack of Fire Warning System

Controls

- Inspect all electrical wiring for frayed or broken wires
- Remove all non-mission essential items
- Do not plug in high draw appliances to the same circuit
- Do not use daisy-chained surge protectors
- Order new extinguishers from FSS out of Kuwait or from the States
- Ensure replacements are requested after use
- Ensure extinguishers are properly placed
- Do not use fire extinguishers as door stops
- Ensure extinguishers are accessible
- Order, place, and maintain smoke detectors IAW IH accident prevention plan
- Post fire guards in sleeping and high hazard areas
- Use a common fire alert system IAW IH accident prevention plan
- Ensure that each area has a safe exit plan with multiple exits

