

Fire hazard!

Paraffin-based skin products on dressings, clothing or bedding



Using paraffin-based cream is safe unless an ignition source, such as a heater, candle or cigarette is introduced. These sources could cause a fire which may result in serious injury or death.

Examples of paraffin-based emollients include:

- ✓ White soft paraffin
- ✓ White soft paraffin plus 50% liquid paraffin
- ✓ Emulsifying ointment



Some examples of these products are E45, petroleum jelly and Diprobase ointment. The use of these paraffin-based products, which can saturate dressings, clothing, bedding and soft furnishings, can be easily ignited if exposed to a naked flame. The risk of serious injury or death is greater if a person's mobility is limited.

The risk is greater when these preparations are applied to large areas of the body, or when dressings, clothing or bedding become soaked with emollient.

Top tips to reduce the risk:

- ✓ Do not use naked flames or go near anything that may cause a fire while emollients are in use
- ✓ Never cook if there is a chance of your clothing being contaminated
- ✓ Never use paraffin-based cream on your skin if using oxygen equipment or an airflow mattress, speak to your GP or a healthcare professional
- ✓ Wash and change your clothing daily
- ✓ Wash bedding daily
- ✓ Avoid furniture becoming contaminated and use throws that can be washed regularly
- ✓ Take care if you smoke and don't allow others to smoke near you in your home

Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service offer free home fire safety checks to vulnerable members of the community. To request a free visit please contact Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service:

Tel: 0800 3581 999

Email: fire@cornwall.gov.uk

Web: www.cornwall.gov.uk/hfsc

