



Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Please ask for: Service Information Team Leader

Tel: 01604 797000

Our Ref:

Your Ref: N/A

Date: 24 September 2020

If you have any difficulty in obtaining the above telephone number please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk.

Re: Request for information (our ref: NFRS2020-225-255)

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 29 August 2020. Our response is provided below:

Following on an anonymous claim made via Twitter from someone who describes themselves as a firefighter.

Their main claims are that new procedures concerning on-site emergency treatment of injured people contain:

- 1) *Abolishing the use of bag valve masks, now only allowing chest compression*
- 2) *Reducing oxygen use from 100% to 50%*
- 3) *Replacing the use of shaking the casualty to establish vital signs with kicking them instead*

My information request is as follows:

Q1 Is claim one above true?

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) have ceased using bag valve masks both in training and operationally. This is following guidance from the British Heart Foundation and our emergency service partners East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). Our clinical governance arrangements are with EMAS.

Q2 Is claim two above true?

The oxygen flow-rate has not changed. This is still delivered at 15 litres per minute and is 100% oxygen.

Q3 Is claim three above true?

When checking for vital signs as part of the patient assessment, there are numerous ways of looking for a response depending on the patient condition and associated mechanisms of injury.

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The common techniques include gentle shaking of the casualty's shoulders or applying slight pressure to the collar bone. The second technique is more apt when there is suspected spinal damage. Kicking a patient is not a technique adopted by NFRS or EMAS.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting reference NFRS2020-225-255.

Yours sincerely

Service Information Team Leader

If you are unhappy with the response, you can ask the Service to review it. To do this, please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk or alternatively write to the address below:

Service Information Manager
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Moulton Logistics Centre
Moulton Way
Northampton
NN3 6XJ

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF