



MEDIA RELEASE



NEW STORAGE CABINETS PROTECT FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FROM MISCHIEVOUS SCHOOL STUDENTS

Eastbury Comprehensive School in Barking has become the first school in the UK to install a new type of tamper evident storage cabinet for fire extinguishers as a means of reducing incidents of inappropriate use.

The cabinet has been specially designed to store emergency firefighting equipment in public places where traditional opaque storage cabinets are generally functionally and aesthetically unsuitable. Using an ABS back with a clear, high impact resistant and, for outside use, weather resistant polycarbonate door, the versatile product incorporates a number of innovative features and benefits which make it ideal for the storage and protection of fire extinguishers sited in public buildings. They are particularly suited for use in educational establishments where large numbers of people move through corridors between lessons and lectures giving rise to accidental displacement or deliberate tampering.

Ecovert FM, one of the UK's major facilities management companies responsible for the maintenance of a number of schools around the UK, has experienced substantial levels of extinguisher misuse leading to growing refill costs at particular schools. At Eastbury Comprehensive, Ecovert FM decided to acquire five of the new cabinets on a trial basis. Since their installation there have been no further misuse incidents and plans are afoot to purchase more for installation at known high risk locations around the school.

Commenting on the decision to specify the SOS101 cabinet, manufactured by Somerset based fire safety cabinet specialists Jo Bird & Co Ltd, David Solvey, Ecovert FM's Engineering Manager responsible for three school sites in Barking and Dagenham explained, "This large comprehensive has over 200 fire extinguishers sited throughout the complex which are a mixture of large and small units. The large ones are situated in all the main corridors in the school and are vulnerable to being tampered with by students. The problems have been with the water filled extinguishers where we have experienced a high level of refills. We purchased and installed the cabinets for the school as a trial to combat false activations. There have been no reported incidents since so we are already seeing savings in our maintenance costs as a result and expect to be installing more over the coming months".

Nick Atkins, Jo Bird's UK Sales Manager added, "We are aware of the difficulties posed by the misuse of fire extinguishers in all types of public buildings from offices, schools, hospitals to leisure facilities and local and central government buildings. All too often they are either accidentally knocked off their wall fixings, used as doorstops or simply misused in a variety of ways. The installation at Eastbury Comprehensive is an example of just one of the many situations where the SOS101 has been specified as a means of improving security and reducing long term maintenance costs". Pointing out the options available he said, "In basic format the SOS101 cabinet with its clear door and integral security seal affords easy visual inspection. In addition, a single quick release door catch ensures rapid access to a unit designed to accommodate a variety of extinguisher shapes and sizes. For added security we are also able to equip the cabinets with two types of battery powered mini alarms giving instant warning of unauthorised access".

For more information or photographs please contact either;

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