

FIRST AID KITS & VILLAGE HALLS

Guidance from the Health & Safety Executive
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/faqs.htm>

There is a British Standard BS 8599 for first aid kits. It is not a regulatory requirement under the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 to purchase kits that comply with this standard. Instead the contents of a first aid box are dependent on an employer's [village hall committee's] first aid needs assessment.

The process is summarised by **Alex Wheeler of the North East Ambulance Service** as follows:

- * the venue does a risk assessment for its site
- * record the risk assessment
- * decide if you need a BS 8599 compliant kit, a non-compliant kit but which meets the needs of the risk assessment, or a BS 8599 compliant kit with additional contents.

Unless you have very special needs, most halls are likely to choose a BS 8599 compliant kit – possibly with the additional items listed on the next page.

We have copied 3 pages from **ACRE's (Action with Communities in Rural England) excellent Information Sheet No 15 Health & Safety Legislation and Village Halls**. This takes into account the new British Standard for first aid kits which was introduced in 2011 which sensibly now requires the inclusion of more plasters, wipes etc. ACRE advises halls to purchase a first aid box for up to 10 people (low risk). These kits (compliant with BS 8599-1 and often described as "for a small workplace") can be purchased on-line for between £12.00-£17.00 + postage. Often these "small" kits are sufficient for up to 25 people.

An electronic version of the full Information Sheet 15, which includes everything from Risk Assessments to Legionnaires' Disease and much in-between including an example of an Accident Form, can be obtained via Louise Currie at Community Action Northumberland. louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk