



## DuPont Fluoroproducts

July 2, 2001

**SUBJECT: FE-36™ Safe for Use in Patient Care Areas**

The use of FE-36™ in portable fire extinguishers may provide the best protection against the hazards of fires in patient care areas, such as hospitals and surgical rooms. FE-36™ is a “clean agent” replacement for Halon 1211. FE-36™ is electrically non-conductive, leaves no residue upon use, has very low-toxicity, and has superior environmental characteristics versus Halon 1211.

Two of the greatest risks to a hospital patient from a fire are:

- the loss of critical electronic medical devices, which are being used:
  - to monitor the condition of the patient
  - as life support for the patient
- the fire, itself, and combustion by-products from the fire

FE-36™ has been demonstrated to be highly effective at protecting sensitive, electronic devices by effectively putting out the fire without leaving any residue that could damage or otherwise interfere with normal electrical instrument operation.

FE-36™ is an excellent fire suppressant and has much lower toxicity than Halon 1211. When FE-36™ is exposed to open flames it has the potential to produce the same types of irritating combustion products as all Halon and hydrofluorocarbon fire suppressants. In an actual fire situation where FE-36™ is deployed and combustion products of plastics and other medical materials are present in the patient area, we would recommend that the patient be moved from the area, if at all possible.

In conclusion, FE-36™ is an excellent candidate to protect patient care areas from the hazards of fire, both for the electronic devices and the individual.