Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) - Fact Sheet

Know our Hospital Safety Officer – Jill Kavoukian

Chemical Safety/Hazard Communication (Right-to-Know)
- State employees are governed by the Public Employees Safety and Health Bureau (PESH)
  - private employees are overseen by OSHA
- You have the Right-To-Know about the hazards of chemicals you work with
- Chemical hazard information is provided on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and labels.
  - SDS has information on exposure control, storage, first aid, and spill response
  - Departmental inventories and SDS are accessed on Hospital Intranet under “Resources”
- Globally Harmonized System (GHS) labeling system requires labels and SDS include product identifiers, signal word (Danger or Warning), pictograms, hazard statements, and precautionary statements.

Chemical Spills / Spill Kits / Eyewashes
- **Minor Spill** (< 1 gallon or < 50 ml hazardous drug): Trained staff can clean up using a spill kit. Spill kits are available for Glutaraldehyde/OPA, Formaldehyde, Hazardous Drugs and Acid spills
- **Major Spill** (> 1 gallon or > 50 ml hazardous drug): Call University Police at 911 (631-632-3333 from cell phone) and provide details of spill. Off sites: Call local fire dept or 911, depending on location.
- Eyewash required for areas using corrosives, glutaraldehyde/OPA, formaldehyde, hazardous drugs, or battery acid. Users must test weekly and record on log.

Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)
- Staff must wear hospital approved N95 respirators (3M 1860 or Moldex 1500) when entering a room of a patient with known or suspect airborne pathogenic disease (i.e., TB).
- **Annual training and fit testing** for those in RPP (Monthly open fit testing schedule on Hospital Intranet)
- Keep fit test card in your ID badge; write your respirator make/model/size on card.
- Replacement N95s should be on units and can be ordered through Lawson.
- Staff with beard for religious or medical reasons can use powered air purifying respirator available in EH&S.

Preventing Employee Injuries and Illnesses
- Report any safety concerns to your supervisor, EH&S or University Police.
- Report injuries/illnesses to your supervisor, complete Employee Injury/Illness Report and fax report to number on form (Forms are on hospital intranet under “Forms”). Call ARS at 888-800-0029.
- Contaminated sharp injury: Go to Employee Health & Wellness or ED (off-hours) for follow up and fax completed Employee Injury/Illness Report and a Sharps Injury Log ) to fax number on forms.
- Latex Allergy: Notify supervisor and go to Employee Health & Wellness for an evaluation.
- EH&S and Employee Health & Wellness manage the ergonomics program. To request an ergonomic evaluation, contact EH&S.

Environment of Care (EOC)
- Supervisors must review EOC Checklist with new employees (checklist on HR’s website).
- Review EOC Reference Cards (yellow laminated cards posted in all depts.) and emergency phone numbers.
- Know location of your unit’s power outage kit (tool boxes that contain power outage equipment: flashlights, batteries, extension cords, duct tape and glow sticks).

Hazardous Waste Management
- Prior to ordering products/chemicals, refer to Hazardous Chemical Waste Management (Admin EC:0045) and EH&S Purchasing Checklist (EH&S Policy 4-9). Consider less hazardous or “green” products.
- Complete a Waste Determination to determine proper chemical disposal, as per Admin EC:0045.
- Partially used pharmaceutical hazardous waste is collected in the black containers located in med rooms.
- Unused or expired medications are place in Return bin in med rooms and returned to Pharmacy (Refer to Pharmaceutical Waste Management, Admin EC:0065).
- Used fluorescent lamps (bulbs) and used batteries are considered Universal Waste and cannot be discarded in regular trash. To properly dispose: contact Recycling for batteries and Plant Operations for lamps.
Fire Safety

- Understand Hospital’s Fire Protection Systems:
  - Chimes followed by voice message indicates fire alarm is in another area = Be Alert
  - Alert tone and Strobes followed by voice message indicates fire alarm is in your area = If there is visible smoke/fire follow RACE procedures:
    - Remove – remove patients from danger
    - Alarm – activate fire alarm pull station and call 321 (provide your location).
    - Confine – shut all doors
    - Extinguish or Evacuate
- Know your dept’s Fire Evacuation Procedures:
  - Know location of your unit’s Fire Evacuation map (towers=Nurses’ Station)
  - If fire on Network floors (L1-L3) – evacuate to the outside
  - If fire on L4-L6/Towers (T8-T19) – horizontal evacuation to area of refuge behind smoke doors
  - If fire at off site – evacuate to outside
- Code Red – Fire Code Green – All Clear
- Know about Fire Warden program:
  - Each unit must have a Warden and alternate for each shift
  - Wardens coordinate fire alarm response and evacuations if necessary
- Know the locations of fire emergency equipment:
  - Fire Extinguishers
    - Know how to use Extinguisher - Think PASS: Pull pin, Aim at base of fire (stand back 6-10 feet), Squeeze nozzle, and Sweep side to side
  - Fire alarm pull stations – nursing core, by elevators and stairwells (off sites – by exits)
- Don’t prop or chock open any doors.
- Don’t block any fire exits (corridors), fire doors or fire emergency equipment
- Shut off Oxygen Isolation Valves, if oxygen is fueling fire in patient room- Know locations of your valves.
- Maintain Proper Oxygen Cylinder Storage
  - Cylinders must be secured, labeled and segregated “used” and “unused”
  - Unused cylinders should have a black cap on the oxygen outlet
  - No more than 12 total unused or used cylinders can be stored

Radiation Protection Services, RPS (8-2356 or 4-3196)
Hospital Radiation Safety Officer – Paul Zahra
- Be aware of radiation and laser safety signage. Do not enter posted areas without authorization from the area manager-supervisor or RPS.
- Working in a radiological controlled area requires radiation safety training before your work commences.
- Know how to keep your radiation exposure As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) using:
  - Time, Distance and Shielding
- Maintain security and control of all radioactive substances and sources in your work area.
- If issued dosimetry badges or rings to measure your personal occupational radiation dose, always wear properly on the body as designated while working with radiation. Return badges to your department badge coordinator promptly at the end of the wear cycle (9th of the month).
- If wearing lead aprons or shields as personal protective equipment, always inspect before use.
  - Check for damage and for indication of annual inspection by RPS.
- If a radioactive spill occurs follow emergency procedures posted in your area. If you are unsure, call RPS.

Any Questions? – contact EH&S Healthcare Safety at 4-6783, email: ehsafety@stonybrook.edu or http://www.ehs.stonybrook.edu

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