



TOOLKITS for the Ones Holding the TOOLBOX

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eCareSolutions

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- ▶ 13 years in Public Health
- ▶ 14 years in Facilities, Safety/Life Safety Emergency Management, Hazardous Materials, Security and Healthcare Construction
- ▶ Currently serving as Executive Director of Facilities & Real Estate Services at Houston Community College
- ▶ Implemented multiple hospital system initiatives to include adopting plain language through a multiple campus hospital system
- ▶ Led small, medium and large hospitals through successful Joint Commission accreditation Surveys
- ▶ Served at the local and state level for ASHE
- ▶ Recently launched a consulting service to help hospital, clinics and organizations solve compliance and business problems

Problems within the Physical Environment

Safety problems identified within the physical environment account for 60%-70% of deficiencies scored by The Joint Commission (TJC) during surveys, according to TJC statistics. However, in the first six months of this year, (2023) almost 90% of those Environment of Care (EC) and Life Safety (LS) findings were in the low or moderate risk range on the SAFER Matrix and were found to be having a limited impact on safety,

Herman McKenzie, MBA, CHS, director of TJC's Standards Interpretation Group's Physical Environment Department



Challenges of a Small to Medium size Hospital

- ▶ Life Safety
- ▶ Emergency Management
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Biomedical Services/Clinical Equipment
- ▶ Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Utilities



PLAN: MAKE A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION

- ▶ Begin to prepare ahead of way ahead of time
- ▶ Practice the visit with the team
- ▶ Review your documents
- ▶ Know your vulnerabilities and have a plan of action ready to go
- ▶ Brag on your wins
- ▶ Have several people to tag team topics
- ▶ Never and I mean NEVER LEAVE YOUR SURVEYOR

WHAT'S THE SURVEY SCHEDULE FOR THE LS SURVEYOR

- ▶ Arrive at 7:45AM, notification is performed at the same time as the surveyors walking in. (NO NOTICE)
- ▶ Initial Conference at 9- Be ready LS to start after introductions
- ▶ Have Documents organized and ready by 9:00AM (electronic or paper)
- ▶ View the Fire Panel (Have someone checking the panel as soon as you know a survey is happening)
- ▶ Critical Pressure Areas- OR's, Hazardous Spaces, Procedure Rooms
- ▶ Review LS drawings- Make sure these are current and accurate
- ▶ Building tours will follow and can focus on any space including mechanical rooms
- ▶ Will break for lunch and during that time they will call with questions

SAFER MATRIX EXPLAINED

		<i>Immediate Threat to Life</i>		
Likelihood to Harm a Patient/Staff/Visitor	HIGH (HARM COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME)			
	MODERATE (HARM COULD HAPPEN OCCASIONALLY)			
	LOW (HARM COULD HAPPEN, BUT WOULD BE RARE)			
		LIMITED (UNIQUE OCCURRENCE THAT IS NOT ROUTINE PRACTICE)	PATTERN (MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES WITH POTENTIAL TO IMPACT SOME)	WIDESPREAD (MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES WITH POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MOST/ALL)
		Scope		

EC/LS Top 10 Common Findings

- ▶ EC02.06.01 EP1- Interior space must meet the need of the patient

Catch all for everything from gouged walls to broken equipment

- ▶ LS02.01.35 EP4 Piping for approved automatic systems (Sprinkler systems)

Cannot have anything on sprinkler pipes

- ▶ EC02.05.01 EP9 Labels utility systems for partial or complete shut down

Look at all your signage, it must be present and legible, often missing in bulk oxygen systems

- ▶ EC02.05.05 EP6 Non-high risk on inventory documented

Inventory of critical and non-critical equipment by category

- ▶ LS02.01.10 EP14 The space around pipes, conduits aka penetrations

- ▶ EC02.06.01 EP26 Keeping furnishing and equipment in good condition

- ▶ LS02.01.35 EP14 Catch all for extinguishers inspections

- ▶ EC02.02.01 EP5 Handling, selecting, storing hazardous materials-SDS compliance

- ▶ LS02.01.10 EP11 Fire Doors, annual fire door inspections, closing and latching

- ▶ EP02.05.01 EP16 Non-Critical pressure relationship- Rooms other than surgical or procedure rooms

Emergency Management (When does the LS Surveyor Perform)

- ▶ <6 surveyor days, the LS surveyor will perform the EM section
- ▶ EM.13.01.01EP1 COOP (Does not need to be a stand-alone document, can be part of your EOP)
- ▶ EM16.01.01EP2 Two exercises per year
- ▶ EM12.02.09EP3 96-hour plan (DO NOT NEED TO HAVE 96 hours on hand but must have a plan)
- ▶ EM13.01.01EP3 Succession Planning (have a plan multiple people deep)
- ▶ EM17.01.01EP1 Team evaluates exercises (Drill to failure and what did you do with the information)

Workplace Violence Standard

- ▶ EC02.01.01EP17 Annual Worksite Analysis
- ▶ EC02.01.01EP1 ID risks (what did you do with the risks you identified)
- ▶ EC02.01.01EP3 Minimize Risk
- ▶ EC02.01.01EP7 ID Entering persons (who does your policy say will have ID's and do they have ID's) [contractors]
- ▶ HR01.05.03EP29 Education & Training (who does your policies and procedures say is trained and are they trained)
- ▶ LD03.01.01EP9 Identify who is leading this initiative

NEW or REVISED requirements that became effective Jan. 1, 2024

- ▶ New, voluntary Sustainable Healthcare Certification (SHC) program to advance decarbonization in healthcare, applicable to all Joint Commission-accredited critical access hospitals and hospitals and non-Joint Commission-accredited critical access hospitals and hospitals that comply with applicable federal laws.
- ▶ Revised hospital requirements to align with changes made in response to the critical access hospital deeming renewal application, including new elements of performance (EPs) that address the expectation for compliance with the *Life Safety Code*[®] (NFPA 101-2012) and Health Care Facilities Code (NFPA 99-2012). Also, revisions to the Environment of Care (EC) chapter, removing references to alternative equipment maintenance (AEM) programs and manufacturer's recommendations from the requirements for equipment maintenance.

*TJC possibly looking at updating from 2012 editions (J. Kindig)



Helpful Resources

Survey Activity Guide 2024

- ▶ <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/accred-and-cert/hap/hospital-organization-sag.pdf>

Life Safety & Environment of Care Document List and Review Tool 2024

- ▶ https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/prepublications/2024/ahc_em_chapter_prepublication_report_july2024-2.pdf

Emergency Management Changes in 2024

- ▶ https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/prepublications/2024/ahc_em_chapter_prepublication_report_july2024-2.pdf

Water Management-Legionella Testing

- ▶ https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/r3-reports/r3-report-water-management-final_nov1.pdf

More Resources

Workplace Violence Compliance Checklist

- ▶ https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/resources/patient-safety-topics/work-place-violence-prevention/compendium_final_1.pdf

Helpful Risk Assessments for Pediatrics

- ▶ <https://www.missingkids.org/content/dam/missingkids/pdfs/publications/nc05assessment1.pdf>



QUESTIONS

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