

Worker Instruction Program

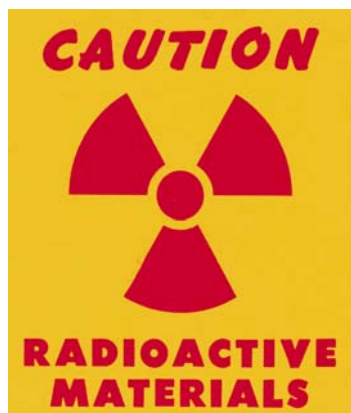
Facility: _____

Date Completed: _____

During the course of your employment you may be required to work in the Nuclear Medicine Department. Some of the areas in this department may be considered as restricted areas. Therefore, we are required to instruct you with regard to the proper procedures to follow while in these areas.

Radiation Warning Signs to Recognize

All radiation warning signs consist of a magenta-colored three-blade symbol on a yellow background. The label on the sign will give you further information about the amount of radiation in the area.



Caution Radioactive Materials – This sign warns that you are about to enter a room where radioactive materials are used or stored. The radioactive materials will be stored in containers that prevent the material from escaping unless someone is working with the materials at the time you enter. These containers are also labeled with a **Caution Radioactive Materials** sign. Never touch or move these containers.

Caution Radiation Area – This sign warns that the area where the sign is posted has higher radiation levels than the remainder of the room. These areas occur only in rooms that are labeled with a **Caution Radioactive Materials** sign. You should minimize your time spent near this area.

Why is the Nuclear Medicine Department so Different?

The Nuclear Medicine Department uses radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis and treatment of patients. Radiopharmaceuticals are pharmaceuticals that are radioactive. Rooms containing radioactive materials must be labeled with the symbol shown above. It is required that all liquid radioactive materials be kept in special containers to prevent the material from escaping. It is required that these containers be labeled with a yellow and purple symbol like the one above.

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Is It Safe For You to Enter the Nuclear Medicine Department?

You should not routinely enter rooms labeled with *Caution Radioactive Materials* signs. However, in the event that you need to enter these rooms, you should follow the following guidelines.

1. Note the radiation warning signs. Do not enter rooms labeled with a *Caution Radioactive Materials* sign unless it is necessary.
2. Open the door to the room carefully, in order to avoid collisions.
3. Do not proceed into the work area without permission from someone working in the room.
4. When leaving rooms labeled with a *Caution Radioactive Materials* sign, the door must be re-locked if the room is not occupied by trained employees.

What to Do if Something Spills

If you notice a container labeled with the radiation symbol that has been knocked over and appears to have spilled its contents, you must take the following steps:

1. Do not attempt to touch the container or its contents.
2. If liquid is leaking from the container, you should drop an absorbent pad or paper toweling over the liquid. Do not wipe up the liquid.
3. If you think you may have stepped into radioactive material, take your shoes off and leave them at the site of the spill.
4. If you think you may have touched radioactive material or liquid, wash your hands thoroughly. Then put gloves on.
5. Block off the area to prevent spread by other people.
6. Call the Radiation Safety Officer and the Nuclear Medicine Technologist on call immediately. They will give you further instructions.

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Security of Radioactive Materials

1. All rooms that are labeled with a Caution Radioactive Materials sign (restricted rooms) must be locked when they are unattended.
2. Only employees that have completed the Radioactive Materials Worker Instruction Program are allowed to work unsupervised in a restricted room.
3. Never leave untrained individuals unattended in a restricted room. If it is necessary for an untrained individual to work in restricted rooms, he or she must be supervised by a trained staff member.
4. Any inspectors wanting access to restricted areas should be asked to show identification. Inspectors must be accompanied by trained staff when in restricted areas and must not be left alone.
5. All containers that are labeled with a Caution Radioactive Materials sign must be secured at all times. If you discover an unattended container that is labeled, you should secure the container so that unauthorized personnel cannot remove it. You should attempt to locate the personnel responsible for the container or contact the RSO.
6. If a delivery of a damaged or leaking package is attempted, you should keep the delivery person on site until it can be determined that the package is not leaking radioactive material and that the delivery vehicle and personnel are not contaminated. You should first secure that package on some type of absorbent material to prevent spread of the material. Then the RSO must be contacted and they or a Nuclear Medicine Technologist will determine if contamination is present.

