

Radiation Safety for Maintenance Personnel

Worker Instruction Program

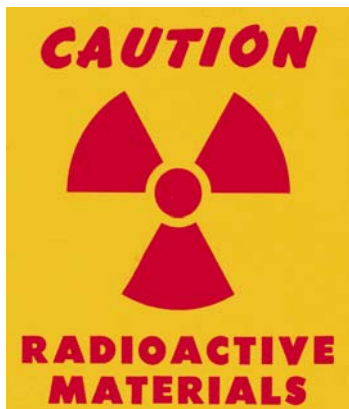
Facility: _____

Date Completed: _____

During the course of your employment at this facility 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.

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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.

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.

What You Can/Can't Do in the Nuclear Medicine Department?

1. You should never *touch, or move* a container labeled with the radioactive symbol.
2. Do not clean or disturb any *equipment on counter tops*.
3. While in an area where radioactive materials are present, you should work *efficiently and carefully*.
4. You must *never bring food, drink, or personal items* into these areas.
5. Rooms labeled with the radioactive symbol typically must be *locked when they are unattended*. If you enter a room that was locked, you must lock the room when you leave. If the room was not locked when you entered and you cannot find Nuclear Medicine personnel when you are ready to leave, you should lock the room when you leave.
6. Never let any individual into rooms labeled with the radioactive symbol. Only trained personnel, including inspectors, may enter these rooms without supervision. If an individual needs access to these areas, it should be done by security personnel.

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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.

Radiation Safety Officer (RSO): _____

Phone: _____

