

EC HIGHLIGHTS



OREGON
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Did you miss it?
Check out the most recent EC Highlights and updated EC Policies and Procedures!

Updated

Environment of Care Policies and Procedures:

- [Regulated Medical Waste and Medical Waste Disposal Grid](#) CLICK HERE
- [High-Level Disinfectant Use](#) CLICK HERE
- [Pest Control](#) CLICK HERE
- [Pneumatic Tube System Use](#) CLICK HERE
- [Pediatric/Infant Abduction: Prevention and Response](#) CLICK HERE
- [Hand Sanitizer Placement](#) CLICK HERE

Chair Lifecycle

(Click here for issue)



Fire Doors

(Click here for issue)

EC HIGHLIGHTS: CAN YOU GUESS?

What do these things have in common?

These are all items that have been found blocking or holding doors open this year!

- Doors must be able to close with a single motion (pull it shut).
- Fire codes strictly prohibit door wedges, kick down door stops or other creative efforts to hold doors open.
- What can you do? Some doors are allowed a "door hold open" — submit a Facilities Work Request for consultation and installation.

Questions? Contact Environmental Health & Radiation Safety at 503-494-7795

The Joint Commission - Environment of Care Standards guide OHSU in this material. The Environment of Care Committee offers this tool to help remind employees of safety policies and best practices. Please post or share this information with staff. December 2011.

Manager's Guide

(Click here for issue)

EC HIGHLIGHTS: Your source for answers!

Now Available: 2012 Guide to Environment of Care Requirements

What is the Environment of Care? It is the buildings, equipment and staff knowledge that make up the safest possible physical environment for everyone at OHSU. The Joint Commission (TJC) recognizes that departments are unique and Environment of Care requirements should be customized for each area.

The 2012 Guide to Environment of Care Requirements is intended to provide education for the novice manager and to be a comprehensive resource for information and tools for all managers in navigating TJC requirements. All workforce members are expected to abide by safety guidelines; managers are responsible for the safety of the environment, training employees, and enforcing guidelines and policies in their areas.

Reminder: Review your department's Big Brain compliance report for the Environment of Care module. All employees must complete this annually.

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Container Labeling

(Click here for issue)

Secondary Container Labeling

OHSU PROCEDURE: Whenever a hazardous material is transferred from the primary to a secondary container, the secondary container must be properly labeled.

OH NO! THE UNLABELED CONTAINER IS GONE! AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHAT WAS IN IT...

UNLABELED CONTAINERS
AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN!

Employees have a right to know about hazards in the workplace, and labels are a critical step to ensure this information is available. Good practice suggests that all containers be labeled to define any hazards, including those containing just water.

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Fire Sprinklers

(Click here for issue)

EC HIGHLIGHTS: Fire Sprinklers & Storage: What you need to know

Who makes the rules?

- City of Portland Fire and Rescue
- State of Oregon Fire Marshal
- Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (Healthcare only)
- The Joint Commission (Healthcare only)

OHSU Fire Code Expert: Environmental Health and Radiation Safety 503.494.7795

For areas WITH sprinklers:

- Abolish 18" clearance from sprinkler
- Shelving/casework attached walls are allowed to extend past the 18" plane as long as the shelving/casework is not directly above the shelving/casework. Store only infrequently used and fire-combustible items on a top shelf for fire safety and ergonomic reasons.
- To avoid fire, storage and shelving/casework are allowed to extend to the ceiling as long as sprinkler eyes remain in every aisle no less than 12 feet apart.
- 18" Rule: Items within 18" clearance from the ceiling to a sprinkler head will block its star flow from the sprinkler rendering it ineffective.

For areas WITHOUT sprinklers:

- Maintain 24" of clearance from the ceiling.
- Shelving/casework prohibited to rest that extends past the 24" plane is allowed in some circumstances.
- Shelving/casework (and cabinets that are freestanding) must have 24" clearance to the ceiling.
- 18" Rule: In the event of a fire, firefighters use the ceiling to deflect water from the fire hose to the other side of the area/room. This allows the firefighters to remain further away from the smoke/fire.
- 24" Rule: Items within 24" clearance from the ceiling to a sprinkler head will block its star flow from the sprinkler rendering it ineffective.

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