



POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE

What does this symbol mean to you? Knowing may protect you from a violent situation!

The **Clinic Violence Alert Symbol** is used to alert you that an identified patient or family member may be potentially violent. The increased risk of violence is based on the Clinical Violence Risk Assessment Sheet, which you can find on the Public Safety web page: <http://www.ohsu.edu/pubsafety/>

When there is a risk that patient or patient relative is potentially violent, the **Clinical Violence Risk Assessment Sheet** will contain information on the primary and secondary risk factors as well as information on violence triggers. This sheet also supplies staff with the required safety steps, necessary resources, and contact information to assist in the process of managing the potential for violence in clinical areas.



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Shared Successes

The following are interesting progress notes from SafetyTeam members' activities:

1. The Rehab Department finished their Annual Safety Policy!

2. A keypad lock was installed on the door to the Food & Nutrition Services catering area to ensure safety.



Please continue to submit your monthly member update forms so that your safety concerns continue to be addressed. Don't forget to answer the Question of the Month, where correct answers will earn you valuable SafetyPoints!

Prizes are available for the points you have earned. There are several of you with very high point totals! Call your SafetyTeam Coordinator (4-0215) if you'd like an updated total and a list of available prizes!



Thanks members... be safe!



Topic of the Month

This is a general discussion of **Chemical Safety**, including basic elements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) **Hazard Communication Standard** and how they are applied at OHSU.



MSDS stands for Material Safety Data Sheet. These are the best source of physical and chemical information about any hazardous substance that is in your work area. An MSDS exists for every chemical you work with, and must be kept in your work area. (Research lab rules are different.)

Binders containing MSDSs should be kept up to date and be made available to all employees. The first page of the binder should be a list of all chemicals in the work area. If you find that the binder is missing an MSDS, you need to get one.

“Do I have to have an MSDS for everything?” If you work with or around hazardous chemicals or other hazardous materials, **OHSU policy requires you to keep paper copies of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals in use.** However, exceptions include consumer-use products used for their intended purpose (e.g.: hairspray for holding hairdos, or glass cleaner for cleaning glass), in normal, consumer-use quantities. If you are using a product **outside** of its intended use or quantity (e.g.: the same hairspray is used to fix cytology samples, or glass cleaner is used to clean floors), you must maintain an MSDS. As noted, there are some exceptions specific to research laboratories.

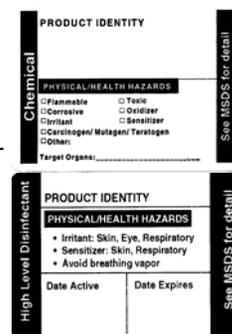
There are two basic kinds of containers. The **primary container** comes from the manufacturer.

The labels on these containers note all kinds of information that OSHA requires the manufacturer supply, most of which is of little use to the everyday user. A **secondary container** is one that you create when you transfer the contents of a primary container to any other container for your use.

Secondary container labels can show less information than primary labels but need to include:

1. **Product Identity** - name of what is inside.
2. **Health Effects** - basic risk information.

Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (4-7795) makes chemical and High-Level Disinfectant labels available (pictured at right), often at no charge! Labels can be in any form, as long as they serve their purpose.



OHSU's detailed policy on Hazard Communication can be found on the O-Zone at:
ozone.ohsu.edu/ehrs

The Health Care System offers further guidance for their operations in the **Administrative Policy Manual** via the “Policies and Procedures” link.

If you have to work with hazardous materials, don't forget your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)! This is the term for gloves, eye protection, face shield, gown, lab coat, and other items used to prevent exposures to chemicals. EHRS has experts on staff to make sure you are using the right PPE... ask for help if you are unsure!

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & RADIATION
SAFETY
503 494-7795**

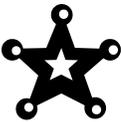
(Alert Symbol - continued from page 1)



After the assessment sheet has been completed, **Clinical Violence Alert Symbols** will be given to you by Public Safety. One symbol is placed directly outside of the patient room and another is placed on the patient chart. Placement outside of the patient's room is necessary to let staff know of a potentially violent situation. Placement of a symbol on the patient's chart is necessary as well in case the patient is transferred to another location.

All staff should be aware of the alert symbol when in use and consult with the primary care team before interacting with the patient. The primary care team will provide you with the minimum basic precautions and information you may need to stay safe when interacting with the patient.

Questions?



Call Public Safety at **(503) 494-7744** and ask to speak with the Community Service Sergeant or Lieutenant.

EMPLOYEE

INJURY AND ILLNESS REPORT FORMS

Starting April 1st, all employee injuries and illnesses must be reported on the correct form or Risk Management will send it back to you and ask that you re-do it. Bookmark the Risk Management Website, and recycle all the old forms in your area! Current forms can be found on the Risk Management Website:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/risk/>

Q of M Answer!

Last month's Question of the Month was from the Focus Topic, "Near Misses."

The question was, **"Who can help you resolve a potential safety problem that could result in an injury?"**

There are many possible answers, but a few good answers are: **EHRs, your manager or supervisor and fellow employees.**

Thank you to everyone who participated! If you answered correctly, you earned 1 SafetyPoint! Contact Kristine Abrahamson at 503 494-0215 for answers to your questions.

ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

With the slogan, "OUR GOAL IS TO HELP YOU REACH YOURS," the **Employee Wellness Program** strives to promote health and wellness for OHSU employees.

The Wellness Program provides a variety of services including:

HEALTH COACHING

ONLINE HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

WELLNESS SCREEING EVENTS

HEALTH AT EVERY SIZE

WALKING GROUPS

JOGGING GROUP

If you'd like to know more about this group, please visit their website at:

<http://ozone.ohsu.edu/employeeewellness>



Slow down in Construction Work Zones!

SAFETYNEWS

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April 2006

Question of the Month

The question of the Month is designed to challenge your safety knowledge and give you a chance to earn some cool, free stuff!



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What information must be on a secondary container label?

Write your answer to the question in the appropriate box on your SafetyTeam Member Update form. Correct answers to this month's Question will earn 1 SafetyPoint.

If you are not currently a SafetyTeam member and would like to participate, contact Kristine Abrahamson, SafetyTeam Coordinator at 503 494-7795.

OHSU

OHSU includes four schools; two hospitals; numerous primary care and specialty clinics; multiple research institutes; and several public service and outreach units. OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

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Oregon Health & Science University
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road, PP 170
Portland, OR 97239

503 494-7795
safeteam@ohsu.edu