From the Safety Manager
Jon A. Hanson

How managers demonstrate leadership

Management leadership can be demonstrated in many ways. For example, managers can:

1. Conduct safety rounds and ask individual workers if they have any safety concerns or issues.
2. Follow proper handwashing procedures and other standard precautions.
3. Lead investigations of any incidents.
4. Approve purchases or expenditures that will improve safety, and communicate the reasons for doing so.
5. Walk around the hospital and stop to compliment employees who are following safe procedures, such as using patient lifting equipment.
6. Keep employees from taking dangerous shortcuts, such as failing to use standard precautions to prevent bloodborne pathogen exposure.
7. Halt work immediately to investigate or correct a serious hazard.
8. Conduct housekeeping inspections of work areas.
9. Ask workers informally about their safety and health concerns.
10. Involve contractor and temporary workers in all aspects of the safety and health management system.
11. Respond in person to employees’ concerns.
12. Provide access to occupational health services for any workplace-related injuries and illnesses, including infections.

From the Safety Specialist

The season for sharing
By Shirlene Liles

It is summertime and while that means different things to different people, it usually means an increase in activity for everyone. Better weather, longer days, kids out of school and peak vacation time all make for busier traffic on roadways. In addition to an increase in automobiles, summertime is the season for increased motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic and just as we all share the road, safety is a shared responsibility. Pedestrians should always walk on sidewalks whenever they are available, if there is no sidewalk available, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible, cross at crosswalks when available or a well-lit area with a clear view of traffic. Bicyclists drive with the flow, in the same direction as traffic, avoid or minimize riding on sidewalks and wear equipment to protect and make you more visible to others. Everyone who shares the road whether they are a pedestrian, drive an automobile, ride a motorcycle or bicycle also share the same responsibilities, always obey all traffic laws, street signs, signals and road markings. Walk, drive or ride defensively and predictably by assuming the other person may not see you, look ahead for hazards or situations to avoid, be focused and alert to the road and all traffic around you and anticipate what others may do before they do it. No use of electronic devices or anything else that distracts you by taking your eyes and ears or mind off the road and traffic.

https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety
http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Programs/Pages/BikePed.aspx
From the Emergency Management Coordinator
By Tony DiMare

Three part series –
Earthquake Safety Checklists
May - How can I prepare?
June - What to do during an earthquake?
July - What do I do after an earthquake?

After an earthquake, the disaster may continue. Expect and prepare for potential aftershocks, landslides or even a tsunami. Tsunamis are often generated by earthquakes.

Each time you feel an aftershock, drop, cover and hold on. Aftershocks frequently occur minutes, days, weeks and even months following an earthquake.

Check yourself for injuries and get first aid, if necessary, before helping injured or trapped persons.

Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.

Look quickly for damage in and around your home and get everyone out if your home is unsafe.

Listen to a portable, battery-operated or hand-crank radio for updated emergency information and instructions.

Check the telephones in your home or workplace to see if you can get a dial tone.

Make brief calls to report life-threatening emergencies.

Look for and extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.

Clean up spilled medications, bleach, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately.

Open closet and cabinet doors carefully as contents may have shifted.

Help people who require special assistance, such as infants, children and the elderly or disabled.

Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and stay out of damaged areas.

Keep animals under your direct control.

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From the Industrial Hygienist
By Alaina Ferrall-Finzer

Respirator Fit Testing
When an airborne hazard has been identified in your work area, you are required to wear a respirator for protection. OSHA requires annual medical screenings and fit tests for respirator users. August is scheduled to be RVAHCS fit testing month. Please schedule time to get your screening and fit testing completed during one of the following dates. Employee occupational health (EOH) will email the medical screening prior to fit testing, please have staff complete forms and send to EOH prior to August.

Roseburg Campus:
- August 16-18 (N-95)
- August 11-21 (Half Mask)
- August 28-30 (N-95)

Eugene HCC:
- August 14-15 (All types)
- August 31-September 1 (All types)

North Bend
- August 9th (am)
- August 24th (pm)

Brookings
- August 9th (pm)
- August 24th (am)

Fit testing cannot be completed without a current medical screening.

Look for specific locations and times in the daily bulletin after July 15th. See you there!

From the GEMS Program Manager
By Ryan Binford

Waste Minimization and Compliance Reporting
For those interested in recycling the VHA has issued a new directive, VHA 1851, Waste Minimization and Compliance Report (RCN 10-99-904). This requires individuals to track recycling at the facility. We have contracts in now for cardboard, metals, and pallets. I am searching for more waste streams, except one time use medical items. These can’t be recycled per VA policy.