To continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations.
Approximately 50% of JC standards are directly related to safety.

[www.jointcommission.org]
Today’s Discussion

- EC safety management
- EC fire safety management
- Overview of standards
- Overlap with traditional EH&S issues
- Compliance challenges
- 2nd, 4th and 10th most commonly cited standards
OSHA and JC Alliance

- Unites to provide education and compliance assistance to healthcare providers
- Focus areas (education and outreach):
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Biological and airborne hazards
  - Ergonomics
  - Workplace violence
Management Plan

- Required for all 7 EC areas
- Brief description of processes
- Updated annually
- Often reviewed by JC surveyors
EC.1.10: “Designated Person…”

- “…to coordinate safety management activities.”
- “…to intervene when conditions immediately threaten life or health…”
- Safety officer
- May have shared responsibilities
“The hospital conducts proactive risk assessments…” (Element of Performance #4)

“The hospital uses the risks identified to select and implement procedures and controls…” (EP #5)
EC.1.10: Risk Assessment

- Big JC buzz words
- Misunderstood
- "General Duty Clause" for safety
- 4th most cited standard during 2006
- Risk-based procedures and controls
EC.1.10: Safety Policies

- Reviewed at least every 3 years
- May not be OSHA-required policy
EC.1.20: Environmental Tours

- Every 6 months in patient care areas
- Every 12 months in other areas
EC.1.30: Policy Re: No Smoking

- Challenging
- Compliance is difficult for “smoke-free” campuses
- Life safety implications
Nursing Home, Hartford, CT
2/26/03

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Window from Room of Origin

Reprinted with permission from Report on Hartford, CT Nursing Home Fire, Copyright © 2003 NFPA.

Fire origin
Corridor View

Reprinted with permission from Report on Hartford, CT Nursing Home Fire, Copyright © 2003 NFPA.
16 Fatalities

Smoke barriers

Fire origin

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Interesting Facts

- Illicitly obtained lighter
- Resident not competent to stand trial
- 5/23/03: Connecticut legislature requires sprinkler protection in all nursing homes by 7/06 (vote of 148-0)
EC.5.10: Fire Safety Management

- JC priority for many years
- Building tour during surveys
- Compliance records
- Maintaining life safety
Number of Fires: Healthcare Facilities (excluding nursing homes)

[The U.S. Fire Problem Overview Report, NFPA, June, 2003]
Fire Injuries: Healthcare Facilities (excluding nursing homes)

[The U.S. Fire Problem Overview Report, NFPA, June, 2003]
Fire Deaths: Healthcare Facilities (excluding nursing homes)

[The U.S. Fire Problem Overview Report, NFPA, June, 2003]
Life Safety in Healthcare

- Late 1980s: JCAHO prohibits smoking
- 1991: Sprinklers required in new healthcare
Defend-in-Place Strategy

- Written fire response plan with roles and responsibilities
- *Life Safety Code* compliance
- Training/drills
- Inspection, testing and maintenance program
EC.5.20: Life Safety Code Compliance

- 2nd most cited standard in 2006
- Statement of Conditions
  - New electronic format (deadline = 7/1/07)

- An employer who demonstrates compliance with the exit route provisions of NFPA 101-2000, the Life Safety Code, will be deemed to be in compliance with the corresponding requirements in §§ 1910.34, 1910.36, and 1910.37
Life Safety Specialist Surveyors (LSSS)

- Now – 200 beds or more = LSSS for 1 day
- 2008:
  - All hospitals = LSSS for 1 day
  - Hospitals > 750,000 sf = LSSS for 2 days
Life Safety Code references

- NFPA 99: Healthcare Facilities
- NFPA 45: Laboratories
- NFPA 30: Flammable Liquids
EC.5.30: Fire Drills

- Quarterly on all shifts for healthcare occupancies
- Annually for business occupancies
- Critiqued
- Identify opportunities for improvement
EC.5.40: Fire Safety Equipment Maintenance

- NFPA 10: Fire Extinguishers
- NFPA 25: Maintenance of Water-Based Protection Systems
- NFPA 72: Fire Alarms
- NFPA 80: Fire Doors
- NFPA 90A: HVAC Systems

- 10th most cited standard in 2006
Fires in Facilities for the Aged

- 1.9 deaths per 1,000 fires with automatic suppression systems
- 10.8 deaths per 1,000 fires without automatic suppression systems

East Tower, Parque Central
Caracas, Venezuela, 10/15/04

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EC.5.50: Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM)

- Policy
- 11 actions compensate for life safety deficiencies
- Examples:
  - 2 fire drills per shift/quarter
  - Additional training
  - Temporary fire alarm, detection or suppression systems
ILSM and ICRMR

- Infection control risk mitigation recommendations developed with ILSM
- Common issues:
  - Temporary construction partitions
  - Housekeeping (dust control) practices
EC.9.10: Monitor Conditions in Environment

- Reporting and investigating:
  - Occupational injuries and illnesses
  - Hazardous materials and waste spills, exposures and other incidents
- “Assigned person” to respond to conditions (e.g. Safety Officer)
- Development of safety policies and procedures
EC.9.20: Multidisciplinary Improvement Team

- a.k.a. Safety Committee
- Bimonthly meetings minimum
- Ideal venue for “risk assessments”
Patient Room (door closed)
Hartford Nursing Home Fire

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Thank you!

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