



# MAKE THE WORKPLACE SAFER Imaging Tech Staff



## Three Steps to a Safer Workplace

**Active observation and follow-up will go a long way toward making your workplace safer. Follow these three steps:**

- 1. Identify hazards or “what can hurt you at work.”** Walk through areas to look for things that can hurt employees, and monitor whether known hazards have been fixed. If you answer “no” to any of the questions below, follow-up is needed.
- 2. Propose solutions.** Assess what changes you can make on your own, and what you need to partner on.
- 3. Take action to make sure the problem is resolved.** Use the *Make the Workplace Safer* Tracking Chart at the end of this document.

## Step 1: Identify Hazards

NAME		LOCATION		DATE
Hazard	Yes	No	Comments/Solution Needed	
<b>RADIATION</b>				
1	Do workers wear film, ring, or other badges to monitor exposure to radiation?			
2	When working in the radiology unit, do workers step behind a barrier wall with a lead glass window to take an X-ray?			
3	When workers use portable X-ray equipment, do workers stand as far as possible away from the equipment and wear a lead apron?			
4	Do workers wear lead aprons, lead gloves, and opaque goggles when working in the direct field of radiation or where there is a possible scattering?			
5	Are fluoroscopy procedures run from a different room? If not, do workers wear lead aprons?			
6	Do workers avoid supporting or holding a patient when an X-ray is being taken?			
7	Are lead aprons hung on sturdy hangers or stored flat?			
8	If radioactive materials are used, are they stored in a separate area? Is there an inventory?			

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Hazard	Yes	No	Comments/Solution Needed
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</b>			
9	Do workers wear latex-safe gloves when they anticipate hand contact with blood, mucous membranes, Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM), non-intact skin, or when handling contaminated items or surfaces?		
10	Do tuberculosis (TB) patients wear a face mask when being transported or having procedures outside of an airborne isolation room? Do workers wear a respirator if the patient is unable to wear a mask, or when delivering care inside the isolation room?		
11	Are annual TB tests given to workers at no cost?		
<b>SAFE PATIENT HANDLING</b>			
12	Are safe patient handling instructions prepared for each patient, based on an assessment of the mobility needs of that patient?		
13	Is staff trained in safe lifting techniques and equipment?		
14	Is there a procedure in place for using powered patient transfer devices or lifting devices (as opposed to manual lifting)?		
15	Are mechanical patient lifts in good repair and are they in a convenient and accessible location within each unit?		
16	Are ceiling track lifts available to help with lifting?		
17	When workers lift or transfer patients, do they use mechanical lifts and get others to assist?		
<b>OTHER ERGONOMICS</b>			
18	Are workers able to work without stooping to the floor, twisting, reaching overhead, or bending to the side?		
19	Are workers able to work at a comfortable speed without too many repetitive movements?		
20	Do workers avoid lifting bulky or heavy materials or equipment?		

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Hazard	Yes	No	Comments/Solution Needed
<b>SAFE CLEARANCE AND WALKING SURFACES</b>			
21	Are pathways and aisles clear and unobstructed? Are they wide enough for movement of patients, equipment, etc.?		
22	Are cords for equipment, lights, etc., placed so as to prevent tripping hazards?		
23	Do workers wear non-skid shoes?		
<b>CHEMICALS</b>			
24	Do workers know the names and health effects of chemicals that they use or are used in their department?		
25	Do workers have what they need to work safely with the chemicals they use?		
<b>VIOLENCE PREVENTION</b>			
26	Do you and other workers know how to respond to potentially violent persons or situations?		
27	Is there an established way to send a signal when there is a problem? (For example, a panic button or a special code such as "Dr. Strong").		
28	Is there an effective communication system with security staff?		
29	At night, is lighting in the worksite and parking lot adequate for staff safety?		
<b>OTHER</b>			
30	Are there any new hazards or other hazards that have not been addressed?		If so, please describe below:

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## WORKER KNOWLEDGE

Employees should receive health and safety training and orientation when they start employment, whenever a new hazard is identified, and periodically as a refresher on some topics. Examples of knowledge people should have are listed below. **Do workers in the department know:**

Hazard	Yes	No	Comments/Solution Needed
1 The hazards common to your work, what protective measures are in place, and what safety practices to follow?			
2 Hazards associated with imaging equipment and radioactive materials?			
3 How to use and when to wear badges to measure radiation exposure?			
4 How to use shielding (such as lead glass and lead aprons) to prevent radiation exposure?			
5 The hazards of potentially infectious materials and the precautions to use?			
6 The hazards of chemicals you work with and how to work with them safely?			
7 How to obtain and use a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for chemicals you work with?			
8 How to choose, wear, remove and dispose of protective clothing and equipment?			
9 How to use patient lifting and positioning equipment to reduce your risk of injury?			
10 How to recognize and respond to threats and potentially violent people or situations?			
11 What to do in case of an emergency at work?			
12 How to identify safety concerns and who to report them to?			
14 Any other training needed?			If yes, please describe below:



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## FOLLOW-UP & TRACKING CHART



### Step 2: Propose Solutions

**For any “no” answers, think about solutions or ways to address the problem.**

- First, think about ways to remove the hazard. This makes your workplace safer and ensures all workers are protected.
- If that’s not possible, think about any policies, procedures or personal protective equipment that is necessary.
- Think about what changes you can make on your own and what changes you need to partner with others (such as other workers, supervisors, facility management) to do.

Write your suggestions for solutions on the “Step 1: Identify Hazards” checklist and on the tracking chart on the next page.

### Step 3: Take Action

**Report any safety hazards you identify. Use the following chart to track and make sure the problems are resolved.**

1. Give a copy of your hazard checklist findings to your supervisor or department manager, your UBT labor co-lead, and your Safety Team representative.
2. Decide who else should receive a copy of your findings, such as members of the UBT or Safety Committee or your shop steward. Make a note of who you gave it to and the date.
3. Follow up after a few weeks. If the problem was not addressed or resolved, think about your next steps.
  - + Who should be informed?
  - + Who can help you advocate for the needed solution?

# MAKE THE WORKPLACE SAFER **FOLLOW-UP AND TRACKING CHART**

NAME		LOCATION		DATE
Safety/Health Problem	What solution is needed?	Date reported and to whom	1 month follow up	Next Steps
			Corrected Is being addressed Not being addressed Don't know/Other:	
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