

LOS ANGELES COUNTY + UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE NETWORK

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRE/LIFE SAFETY TRAINING

PURPOSE

In 1999, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) granted a Life Safety Code Equivalency to LAC+USC Medical Center for significant fire safety deficiencies. The equivalency required the organization to (1) conduct a full fire watch, (2) perform extra fire drills, and (3) provide supplementary fire safety training to all staff.

DEFINITIONS

- Required Fire/Life Safety Training:**
1. New Employee Safety Orientation – all new employees must take this class within 30 days of employment.
 2. Emergency Preparedness Training (EPT) – all employees are required to take this 8-hour class to get the EPT certificate that is good for four years. EPT training is coordinated by the Safety Office at extension 7485.
 3. Annual Fire/Life Safety Training – conducted and documented by each department/division annually for all staff.

Fire Watch Program:

The Fire Watch staff patrol occupied and unoccupied facility areas such as hallways, stairwells and wards at least twice per shift to monitor for hazardous conditions. The Fire Watch staff reports fires and smoke to the emergency operator for notification to the Fire Department. Building deficiencies such as exit lights out, broken door latches, stairwell lights out, missing ceiling tiles, storage in stairwells and blocked corridors are reported to Facilities Management. Correction of deficiencies identified is usually handled within one week. The Fire Watch staff also checks fire extinguishers and note in a log book the completion of the twice per shift patrol.

Extra fire Drills:

JCAHO requires organizations to conduct one fire drill per shift per quarter in all inpatient areas. To compensate for an inadequate fire alarm system and comply with Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) for Life Safety Code deficiencies at General Hospital and Women's and Children's Hospital, the LAC+USC Medical Center conducts two fire drills per shift per quarter. In compliance, the Fire Watch fire drill coordinator is responsible for conducting the Administrative Fire Drills.

Supplemental Fire/Life Safety Training:

Supplementary Fire/Life Safety Training will be conducted annually for all employees, including contracted employees, and volunteers. This training is to supplement the required fire/life safety training that is conducted annually in all departments/areas of LAC+USC Medical Center. The purpose of the training is to teach the employee the meaning of the Life Safety Code Equivalency granted to the Medical Center by the JCAHO. The equivalency requires the organization to initiate Interim Life Safety Measures (ILSM) like fire watch, extra fire drills and supplementary fire safety training. The training also informs the employee about the lack of heat or smoke detectors in the hospitals, the fact that the stairwells do not go directly to the outside and the absent of fire sprinklers throughout the hospitals.