



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Radiation Protection Section
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Radiation Safety Month

To aid North Carolina citizens and healthcare providers, the Radiation Protection Section (RPS) pursued through the Department of Health and Human Services a proclamation signed by Governor Beverly Perdue to designate November as Radiation Safety Month. The proclamation was granted and presented to RPS. Radiation safety is a collaborative effort that involves the citizens receiving services, the healthcare providers, imaging professionals and radiation workers who provide the service, and RPS-sponsored initiatives to educate the public and promote instruction and guidance.

The authority to regulate ionizing radiation in X-ray, mammography and radioactive materials facilities and to regulate non-ionizing radiation in tanning facilities resides within RPS. In addition to the regulatory responsibilities, RPS also has a radon program whose sole mission is to educate the public regarding the dangers of radon gas. RPS also conducts environmental radiation monitoring around various locations throughout the state including areas in the vicinity of four nuclear power facilities. North Carolina has more than 7,500 X-ray facilities, 235 mammography facilities, 1,800 radioactive material facilities and 1,400 tanning facilities.

Two of the core missions of the Radiation Protection Section to the citizens of North Carolina are to:

- **Reduce radiation exposure to the citizens and occupational workers of North Carolina; reduce radiation contamination to the environment and to protect all from radiation hazards by ensuring the existence of a preeminent radiation safety culture.**
- **Ensure all licensees and registrants have equal opportunity to comply with applicable regulations through education and guidance.**

Success in this mission is dependent upon the assistance of the regulated community and the individual citizens of our state becoming aware of and taking an active role in the radiation safety. RPS constantly seeks opportunities to improve awareness of radiation safety and to reduce radiation exposure to the citizens and occupational workers in our state. Materials such as the dose card and pregnancy posters were developed with the goal that citizens and healthcare providers would work together to improve the health of individuals by learning and sharing information about exposure to radiation. The Radiation Safety Culture Policy Statement and pamphlet were developed to emphasize radiation safety over competing goals to ensure protection of people and the environment.



RPS encourages healthcare providers to promote the use of dose tracking cards. Citizens should keep a record of lifetime doses and the facilities where the X-rays were taken. This may assist the provider in acquiring records of studies that could help in diagnosis or prevent unnecessary repeated exposures.

RPS encourages healthcare providers to post “Inform a Tech” and “Inform a Doctor” pregnancy posters in X-ray rooms. The posters are intended to raise awareness of citizens who may be pregnant of the importance of communicating that information to staff at the facility before having X-rays taken. The posters are free and available in English and Spanish and may be downloaded for printing. They may be found on our website at: www.ncradiation.net/Xray/postings.htm .

RPS endorses and is committed to the development of a robust radiation safety culture throughout the state. All RPS-regulated facilities are encouraged to promote a culture of radiation safety through review of their radiation safety programs and to ensure all occupational staff have been trained and are aware of radiation safety practices. It is imperative that these entities view safety culture as the core values and behaviors rooted in a collective commitment by leaders and individuals to emphasize safety over competing goals. During radiation safety month we encourage you to designate a day to review and update your procedures if you have not already done so this year. The Safety Culture Policy Statement Pamphlet is attached in the email.

During “Radiation Safety Month” RPS salutes all professionals working throughout North Carolina in the field of radiation to minimize the hazards of radiation exposure. Their efforts resulting in quality care to our citizens is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, please use this proclamation to bring awareness to the citizens and occupational workers of efforts to provide safety practices and to encourage a safety culture throughout the state.

For more information visit the following links: Radiation Protection at www.ncradiation.net. or to learn about radon www.ncradon.org