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Safety Topic  
**Safety Knowledge**

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# Safety Bulletin

## Hospital Employees Encouraged to Learn How to Respond to Terrorist Threat

### New Weapons of Mass Destruction CBL in NetLearning

In October 2003, Hospital Safety introduced a new CBL—this one on Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Although the new CBL is not a part of the required safety curriculum, the Hospital Safety Officer recommends that all Hospital employees take the course. “It’s good, basic information that hospital workers need to know,” Tomi Ross, Hospital Safety Officer said.

“I wish that terrorism in the U.S. had been a phenomenon that came and went with September 11, 2001, but it wasn’t,” Ross said. “Just last week, the government temporarily closed 11 postal facilities in Virginia because they detected anthrax. A few weeks ago, ricin made the news when a vial was shipped through the mail.”

We now hear words like *anthrax*, *ricin*, and *botulinum* as a part of everyday conversation and news broadcasts. Hospital personnel have to know what these agents are and what impact they could have if used as agents of terrorism.

#### To enroll in this CBL:

- sign in to NetLearning
- click on *Enroll in CBL*
- Under *Display Course List by Curriculum*, click on *Safety—Additional Courses*.
- Click on *Weapons of Mass Destruction CBL*.

### UK Offers Certificate for Completion of Bioterrorism CBL

The Kentucky Injury Prevention Research Center and the Kentucky Department of Public Health have developed an awareness-level bioterrorism training course. This computer-based learning module was designed for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, but provides valuable information to all healthcare personnel. Upon successful completion of the course, you can print a certificate for your files.

In addition, some healthcare professionals, such as EMTs, RNs, and MDs, may be eligible for continuing education credits for completing this course.

The CBL is designed to provide a basic understanding of the types of biological agents that a healthcare provider is most likely to encounter and when and how an event is most likely to occur. The course does not prepare or qualify a healthcare provider to safely enter an area known to be contaminated with biological agents.

The course is designed to allow the student to work at his own pace and to review information that may be confusing or difficult before taking the test. To receive a certificate or course credit, the student must score at least 72% on the final exam.

To enroll in this CBL, go to {  
HYPERLINK



This newsletter is distributed to STCs and other Hospital leaders to help them fulfill their safety responsibilities.



<http://www.kiprc.uky.edu/trap/index.htm>

This year, the safety survey will be administered through NetLearning.

## Employees Can Take 2003 Safety Survey on NetLearning

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For at least 10 years, employees at UK Hospital have taken an annual safety knowledge survey. The survey is designed to evaluate the employee's current knowledge of safety issues, independent of safety classes or CBLs.

**In other words, it's a test.**

Using the data from the survey, the Hospital Safety Officer and department leaders have the ability to identify areas in which employees could benefit from additional education, and training. The survey also has given the safety officer information about how well current programs are meeting the employees' needs.

Employees will be required to take the survey and to present a transcript showing completion to their manager or supervisor. The survey will be posted on NetLearning in mid-December.

Employees will have until the end of January to complete the survey.

The new process is designed to make things easier for Hospital leaders, who in the past have been required to grade the survey and tally the results. In NetLearning that process is automatic.

### Customer Service Section Important Part of 2003 Leader Safety Survey

Since 2001, Hospital leaders have been asked to test their safety knowledge by completing a Leader Safety Survey. This year's survey, released with this



newsletter, includes a customer service section. The leader safety survey is not yet on NetLearning.

With the leader safety survey, the goal is to determine whether directors, managers, and supervisors understand their roles in safety management and know enough about safety to fulfill those roles. The customer service survey is designed to help the safety officer identify ways to improve the program.

Although you must identify yourself by name and department on the safety survey and can return it by email, you may print a separate copy of the customer service portion and return it anonymously through campus mail.

"Over the years, hospital leaders have begun to take the safety survey a little more seriously. They understand how it's used to document performance for JCAHO and regulatory bodies. I'd like for them to take the customer service portion just as seriously, so that we have information to help improve the safety program." Tomi Ross, Hospital Safety Officer, said.

### { EMBED Excel.Sheet.8 } Safety Survey Scores Declined in 2002

In 2002, employees scored slightly lower on the safety survey than they did in 2001.

Specifically, employees demonstrated less knowledge about fire safety, emergency preparedness, and security than they had the year before. The decline is troubling because the questions in those categories didn't pertain to new information or changes in policy or procedure.

"We expect employees to have problems with information that has just been introduced, like HEICS or bioterrorism. That's why we put them in the *Hot Topics* section," said Tomi Ross. "The routine questions that employees answered incorrectly pertained to things like smoke and fire compartments, bomb threats, evacuation procedures, and ID badges."

to help them fulfill their safety responsibilities.