**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** : provides the guidelines to protect WORKERS

**Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS):** they make sure that EVERY chemical used in a facility is listed.

**Poison Control Center:** call for ALL victims of poisoning.

**Joint Commission**: releases national PATIENT safety goals AND give accreditation.

**Sentinel Event:** an UNEXPECTED occurrence that caused death or serious injury to a patient.

**Near Miss:** event that COULD have possibly turned into a sentinel.

**FALL PREVENTION:**

Perform a full fall history assessment asking if they have fallen in the past year, if they have difficulty ambulating, if they are on high-risk medications, altered mental status, do they require an assistive device, are they incontinent, do they have vision or hearing issues?

Gait belt: should fit around the patient’s waist with room for 2 fingers to fit underneath.

Hold them securely using the gait belt NOT their arm.

Assist patients by assisting them on their WEAKER side.

Let the patient walk slightly ahead of you with your leg closest to the patient BEHIND the patient’s knee.

Staff need to be competent in TRANSFERRING patients (most falls happen during incorrect transfers)

In addition, staff MUST be trained in the UNIVERSAL CARRY in case they need to safely move a patient from the bed to the floor in an emergency situation

The MOST COMMON safety issue in facilities is falls.

A safe hospital environment will be created to prevent injury from falls AND other issues (preventing sentinel events)

SAFETY REMINDER DEVICES (SRD):

There MUST be a doctor’s order

SRDs put patients at risk for

* Immobility
* Impaired Circulation
* Skin impairment
* Incontinence

WAYS TO REDUCE RESTRAINT USE:

* Orient to surroundings
* Explain all procedures and treatments
* Encourage visitors
* Place confused patients near the nurse’s station
* Increase exercise and ambulation to keep them STRONG
* Maintain toileting routines
* Reevaluate medication use frequently

SAFETY IN THE OLDER ADULT:

As patients age their visual acuity becomes impaired and reflexes get slower

* Because of this we are very concerned about driving safely

They are at higher risk for

* Falls-can be due to weakness, medication or other factors
* Frequent Hospitalizations-higher risk for hospital acquired infections
* Burns-be careful with hot liquids and fill cup only half way so they don’t spill
* Loneliness-many of their family and friends have died or they feel isolated
* Wounds-pressure injuries and skin impairment where straps press on skin
* Hypersensitivity to medications-may need reduced doses
* Misusing medications-accidentally taking a double dose or forgetting meds
* Accidental poisoning-possibly from medications
* Hearing related problems (not hearing honking horns or understanding verbal instruction)

SAFETY IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN:

* **Anticipatory guidance** (bike helmets, seatbelts, sunscreen)
* Turn pot handles on stoves away from reach (I STILL do this 😊)
* Keep electrical cords and sockets out of reach.
* Crib side rails up
* Check temp of bath water
* Pool safety

DISASTERS:

**Internal:** within the facility (like a fire)

**External:** outside the facility (like a bus crash)

**Disaster plans** are created for both internal and external disasters to BE PREPARED for any emergent situation where there might be multiple casualties.

RACE=Rescue, Alarm, Confine, Extinguish

PASS-PULL the pin, AIM the nozzle, SQUEEZE the handle, SWEEP the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire

TYPE C fire extinguishers work on any type of fire and are not specific to any one type

TOXINS & TERRORISM:

Mercury: enters the body through inhalation OPEN WINDOWS and get as far away as possible. NEVER vacuum the spill because it will aerosolize it into the surroundings.

Radiation: Limit Time, Increase Distance, Wear Protective Gear (LEAD)

Terrorism is a violent or dangerous act used to intimidate or coerce a person or government to further a political or social agenda.

Bioterrorism is the use of biologic agents to create fear and to threaten.

Some bioterrorism agents are meant to be **“incapacitating”** meaning they don’t kill the intended population only impairs it.

Examples of Bioterrorism agents:

* Anthrax: skin contact, ingestion, or inhalation
* Botulism: usually food borne but can be inhaled
* Plague: spread by droplets
* Smallpox: airborne or direct contact

Nuclear Terrorism (dirty bomb) patients get contaminated from a source on the body, from ingesting it, or through skin openings.

Absorbed radiation is measured in “gray” (Gy). If less than 0.75 patients don’t usually have any symptoms or become ill.

Latex allergies (sensitivity) are frequently seen in the health care environment in both patients and healthcare workers because of constant exposure (most supplies are now latex free)