

Accidents Happen — An Immediate Action Plan

Immediately after every significant incident:

- ✓ Take emergency measures to minimize and care for injury to, discomfort of, and threat to life of patients or personnel (e.g., thermal burns, electric shock, contusions, lacerations, fractures, cardiac arrhythmias, interruption of normal respiration, loss of consciousness).
- ✓ Take appropriate action to minimize damage to equipment and the environment.
- ✓ Notify the attending physician who has legal responsibility for the patient.
- ✓ Impound all equipment attached or contiguous to the injured party in the same room or areas. Do not disconnect or change the relative physical positions of equipment or connecting cables, except as absolutely necessary to avoid further injury or damage. Retain and preserve any disposable products that may have been involved (e.g., drapes, electrodes), as well as their packaging materials.
- ✓ Follow ECRI's Action Plan for Handling Medical Device Hazards, Recalls, and Internal Incidents (printed in the *Health Devices Alerts—Action Items* binder).
- ✓ Call ECRI, +1 (610) 825-6000, for telephone assistance or on-site investigation, if needed.

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