
GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

519 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY, 10018

Phone: 212-643-2828 Fax: 212-643-2956 www.gnyhcfa.org

Memo 26-15

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Director of Building Services, Maintenance, QA Committee, Owners and Operators

From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance and John Kerney, Life Safety Consultant

Date: March 2, 2026

Re: Life Safety Survey Trends & Cybersecurity Recommendations

GNYHCFA would like to share some recent Life Safety Survey trends that have been observed. For ease, we're including regulations directly under.

- Sanitarians are looking very closely at the fire sprinkler system and citing for improper installation of sprinkler heads under section K351. Please see the regulation below. As such, we recommend that you conduct a thorough inspection to ensure all are in place and closely fitting so there are no gaps.
 - 2010 NFPA 13: 3.6.2 Installation Orientation. The following sprinklers are defined according to orientation.
 - 3.6.2.1 Concealed Sprinkler. A recessed sprinkler with cover plate.
 - 6.2.7 Escutcheons and Cover Plates.
 - 6.2.7.1 Plates, escutcheons, or other devices used to cover the annular space around a sprinkler shall be metallic or shall be listed for use around a sprinkler.
 - 6.2.7.2* Escutcheons used with recessed, flush-type, or concealed sprinklers shall be part of a listed sprinkler assembly.
 - 6.2.7.3 Cover plates used with concealed sprinklers shall be part of the listed sprinkler assembly.
- Additionally, Sanitarians are citing facilities at higher rates than before for dust and dirt accumulation under K353 Maintenance of Fire Sprinkler System.

Automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems are inspected, tested, and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintaining of Water-based Fire Protection Systems*. Records of system design, maintenance, inspection and testing are maintained in a secure location and readily available.

- Relocatable power strips (surge suppressors) citations have also seen an increase, cited under K920. Relocatable power strips need to be mounted to the wall or desk at the point of use. There shall be no appliances plugged into these; appliances must have a direct connection to an outlet.

Electrical Equipment – Power Cords and Extension Cords

Power strips in a patient care vicinity are only used for components of movable patient-care-related electrical equipment (PCREE) assemblies that have been assembled by qualified personnel and meet the conditions of

10.2.3.6. Power strips in the patient care vicinity may not be used for non- PCREE (e.g., personal electronics), except in long-term care resident rooms that do not use PCREE. Power strips for PCREE meet UL 1363A or UL 60601-1. Power strips for non-PCREE in the patient care rooms (outside of vicinity) meet UL 1363. In non-patient care rooms, power strips meet other UL standards. All power strips are used with general precautions. Extension cords are not used as a substitute for fixed wiring of a structure. Extension cords used temporarily are removed immediately upon completion of the purpose for which it was installed and meets the conditions of 10.2.4.

10.2.3.6 (NFPA 99), 10.2.4 (NFPA 99), 400-8 (NFPA 70), 590.3(D) (NFPA 70),

- State code violations have been issued at a greater rate with regard to dust and dirt on the ventilation grills. This is cited under state code as an I tag. I 310

415.29 Physical environment. The nursing home shall be designed, constructed, equipped and maintained to provide a safe, healthy, functional, sanitary, and
A comfortable environment for residents, personnel, and the public.

Due to a heightened Cyber Threat Environment due to recent strikes in Iran. It is recommended that all review incident response plans and verify adequate backup of critical systems. To assist in securing systems against cyber-attacks, the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) make recommendations such as removing connections to the public internet, changing default passwords and secure remote access to networks and segment in operate technology and operational technology networks.

Should you observe any suspicious cyber-related activity, or otherwise need guidance, please contact NYSIC Cyber Analysis Unit (CAU) by phone (518-786-2191) or email (cau@nyic.ny.gov) and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) by phone (844-OCT-CIRT) or email (CIRT@dhSES.ny.gov).

Please do not hesitate to contact the Association with any questions.