

## Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

The first stage of hazard vulnerability analysis is to identify all hazards that could occur in or near the facility. HVA involves assigning a magnitude of threat for various events or situations that may occur in the community or on VA property. The scale for measuring the likelihood of the occurrence of threat to the Hibbing and Cook VA Clinics will be:

- **Low** — low likelihood of occurrence.
  - **Medium** — moderate likelihood of happening.
  - **High** — great likelihood of occurrence.
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- **Fire. High.** Our facility faces routine and specialized fire hazards. We face fire hazards from electrical sources, flammables, medical gases and chemicals.
  - **2. Utility and Power Failure. High.** Utility and power failure is a significant hazard at our facility. While the Cook facility has emergency generators, problems could still result in a power failure affecting patients. Loss of utilities (i.e., water, power, medical gas, etc.) should be considered a high-level threat to healthcare operations.
  - **3. Terrorism. High.** As a highly visible government facility with an open campus, the threat of the use of a weapon of mass destruction, (e.g., an explosive device, biological attack, radiological attack, etc.,) is considered high.
  - **4. Tornado. Seasonally High.** The Hibbing/Cook area and Northern Minnesota experience some tornadoes or tornado alerts annually. Damage can be very extensive and extremely serious. Injury and loss of life is possible. This is considered a threat to the community during the spring, summer and fall and may interfere in healthcare operations.
  - **5. Blizzard/Severe Snow Storm. Seasonally High.** This region typically experiences severe snow storms and/or blizzards which include heavy snowfalls, extreme winds, and very cold temperatures randomly from November through April most years.
  - **6. Wind Storm. Seasonally High.** The Hibbing/Cook area could experience wind storms (straight-line winds) nearly annual basis. Damage can be extensive and serious. This is considered a threat during spring, summer, and fall and may interfere in healthcare operations.
  - **7. Floods/Run Off. Low.** Floods and the threat of water run off from heavy rains is considered a remote threat to this facility.
  - **8. Civil Disorder. Medium.** The risk of civil disorder in the community always exists. This is especially true at the change of millennium or other widespread societal disruptions or threats. This is considered a medium-to-high-level threat.
  - **9. Civil Disorder/Facility. Medium.** As a highly visible US Government facility, the risk of civil disorder on station exists.
  - **10. Radiological Incident/Fixed Facility. LOW.** Our facility does not store or use radiological material; therefore the threat is considered low.
  - **11. HazMat/Fixed Facility. LOW.** Our facility does not store and use any hazardous materials and there is low possibility of spills or exposure to hazardous materials.
  - **12. HazMat/Transportation. Low.** Our facility sits adjacent Highways to Minnesota State 169, Minnesota State 73, A radiological incident could disrupt healthcare operations. A HazMat situation could disrupt healthcare operations.
  - **13. Radiological Incident/Transportation. Low.** Our facility sits adjacent Highways to Minnesota State 169, & Minnesota State 73, A radiological incident could disrupt healthcare operations.
  - **14. Landslides. Low.** Landslides may occur in the Hibbing/Cook area, but this hazard is considered a low-level threat to the clinic and its operations.
  - **15. Earthquake. Low.** This region is typically not considered earthquake prone.

*THIS WILL BE EXPANDED PRIOR TO  
CONTRACT AWARDS*

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

**Memorandum**

Date: JAN 26 2011

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: Interim Guidance for Ventilation Requirements in Sterile Processing Department, SPD (formerly Supply, Processing and Distribution)

To: Network Directors (10N1-23)

1. This memorandum serves as interim guidance for ventilation requirements in Sterile Processing Departments pending the release of a formal directive.
2. The following are the minimum number of air exchanges per hour (ACH) based on the functional area and the Design Temperature for existing buildings:
  - a. Soiled / decontamination
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 6 (Temp 72 – 78 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
  - b. Sterilizer Equipment Access Room
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
  - c. Restrooms / Housekeeping
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
  - d. Preparation, Assembly, Sterilization Area
    - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (72 – 78 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
  - e. Clean / Sterile Storage
    - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (Temp 72 – 78 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
3. The following are the minimum number of air exchanges per hour (ACH) based on the functional area and the Design Temperature for new construction and renovations involving replacement of HVAC systems
  - a. Soiled / decontamination
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 6 (Temp 72 +/- 1 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%

Interim Guidance for Ventilation Requirements in Sterile Processing Department,  
SPD (formerly Supply, Processing and Distribution)

- b. Sterilizer Equipment Access Room
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
  - c. Restrooms / Housekeeping
    - i. Airflow = Negative (in)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 10 (Temp N/R)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = N/R
  - d. Preparation, Assembly, Sterilization Area
    - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (72 +/- 1 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
  - e. Clean / Sterile Storage
    - i. Airflow = Positive (out)
    - ii. Minimum ACH = 4 (Temp 72 +/- 1 F)
    - iii. Relative Humidity Range = 20% to 60%
4. Effective immediately all references in VA Handbook 7176 dealing with ventilation are superseded.
5. All new construction and HVAC renovations should comply with the design parameters identified above which meet or exceed those set forth in ANSI / ASHRAE / ASHE Standard 170 – 2008 or the current version, Ventilation of Health Care Facilities and should comply with the VA SPD Design Guide.
6. This memorandum remains in effect until December 31, 2011 or until the appropriate directive is published, whichever comes first.
7. The Point of Contact for questions is Ms. Rosie Fardo, RN, (513-487-6001), [rosanna.fardo@va.gov](mailto:rosanna.fardo@va.gov).

  
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