

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

4100.080

MRI ROOMS

Implemented: 10/26/15

Revised:

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Patrick T Grace, *Fire Chief*

PURPOSE:

To establish the procedure regarding emergency operations within an MRI room for Escambia County Fire Rescue personnel.

OBJECTIVE:

It is imperative that all personnel who are within and around an MRI facility always keep in mind the potential safety risk, and act in accordance with the this SOG, training and direction from MRI facility staff. All personnel should familiarize themselves and train with the specific MRI equipment in their response area.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

PROCEDURE

- a. It is incumbent upon all fire department personnel to remain knowledgeable about the hazards involved with MRI rooms regarding emergency operations.
- b. Firefighting operations should be conducted with non-ferrous CO2 extinguishers or standard fire hose operations.
- c. When not utilizing non-ferrous extinguishers, firefighting operations shall be conducted from the exterior of the MRI room.
- d. One fire department official shall be posted outside of the MRI room to maintain radio communications with the incident command.
- e. The following are items that must be addressed and considered when operating in or around an MRI room.
 - (1) Magnetic field generated by the machine is always on and cannot be fully shut down.
 - (2) All ferrous metals may become projectiles and should not be utilized inside the MRI room.
 - (3) MRI rooms are constructed with a steel shielding that fully encapsulates the room, thus diminishing ability to use portable radios. Personnel operating inside the MRI room may have to communicate via a tactical talk around channel to the designated personnel posted outside of the MRI room.
 - (4) Emergency shutdown button only secures the electrical power to the machine. It does not secure the magnet.

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- (5). Utilizing the “Quench” button is a last resort. This will bring the magnetic field down rapidly however may cause asphyxia and increases the potential for MRI machine to catch fire itself.