

While the unique physical environment hazards of Magnetic Resonance Imaging are well known and documented, adverse events including magnetic projectiles and contraindicated exposure of sensitive implants continue to occur, frequently. FDA accident report data indicates alarming increases in the rates of accidents in the MRI environment.

Few understand the nature and scope of the hazards in the MRI environment as well as medical physicists, and yet physicists are infrequently consulted when physical or operational protections are being considered or deployed.

New clinical accreditation recommendations and requirements from the ACR and Joint Commission, as well as new MRI suite construction requirements, place greater responsibilities upon MRI providers to protect the patients, visitors, and staff. Medical physicists are uniquely positioned to champion safety in the MRI environment and facilitate the adherence to new standards and requirements.

This presentation will provide data and examples of contemporary trends of MRI safety and accidents, outline a number of the recent standards and requirements, and provide the participants with the knowledge tools to actively shape safety at their MRI facilities.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the contemporary state of MRI safety through case exemplars
2. Understand the range of new accreditation, licensure and regulatory expectations for MRI safety
3. Understand concrete, proactive steps that can be taken to improve the physical safety environment for MRI