



PULSE

February 28, 2019
VOL. 31 NO. 2

NEWS OF INTEREST TO RPMH EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Jennie Daniel, our February Employee of the Month! Jennie has been the receptionist in Dr. Marvel's Office since February 2016. She previously worked in the Admissions Department from December 2010 until November 2015. Jennie was nominated by a co-worker that said, "Jennie is efficient in everything she does. She always has a smile on her face and is willing to help when she can." The nomination went on to mention that Jennie has been seen "at the curbside with a wheelchair, helping patients get inside to their appointments." Jennie is a 1985 graduate of Sweetwater High School and also attended Baptist Bible College. Congratulations Jennie! Thank you for making RPMH a happy place to work!

Welcome New RPMH Employees:

NEW EMPLOYEES



WELCOME!!!



Renee McFaul-Admission Clerk



Amy Chavez CNA- M/S



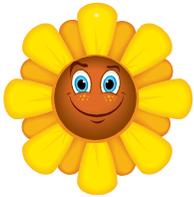
Genea Cherry, LVN-M/S



Julie Northcutt RN- M/S



SPECIAL MENTIONS



Amanda Gonzales
 Amy Schrader
 Becky Bohall
 Bonnie White
 Chelsea Miller
 Diane Calcote
 Dr. Eaker
 Dr. Frazier
 Dr. Liedtke
 Dr. Rossettie

Dr. Sharpe
 Holly Helm
 Hydie Stewart
 Jebby Forbes
 Karen Harkness
 Kris Buchanan
 Liza Delgado
 Marcella Williams
 Merry Johnson
 Miranda Wilson

Rosa Galvan
 Rose Diaz
 Sandra Rivers
 Stephen Cashiola

Congratulations to Jebby Forbes for receiving five mentions – he received a \$5.00 Walmart gift card.

Congratulations to Stephen Cashiola for receiving 10 mentions – he received a \$20 gift card to Skeets.

SPECIAL DAYS



MARCH

March 7 – 10 – Rattlesnake Roundup
 March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
 March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day



DON'T FORGET TO TAKE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY!!!!



PATIENT OPINION POLL



RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF POTENTIAL WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

An active shooter may be a current or former employee. Alert your Human Resources Department if you believe an employee exhibits potentially violent behavior. Indicators of potentially violent behavior may include one or more off the following:

- Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism, and/or vague physical complaints
- Depression/Withdrawal
- Increased severe mood swings, and noticeably unstable or emotional responses
- Increasingly talks of problems at home
- Increase in unsolicited comments about violence, firearms, and other dangerous weapons and violent crimes

"Detessa Fowler, RN was the BEST ER nurse I've experienced at RPMH. She is very caring, thoughtful, and made me feel very comfortable."

"What a clean hospital, a bright and warm feeling, friendly. The staff in the MRI area are well trained."

"Bonnie White, Housekeeper went over the top cleaning and keeping up with a busy weekend!"

"Irene DelaPaz, Housekeeper did a great job deep cleaning the CT area. Thanks Irene for all you do."

"Jebby Fobes was the best nurse in ER! We are so fortunate to have him here in Sweetwater. We appreciate the quick thorough care that we received at RPMH ER."

"Mary Johnson, RN and Roxanne Hernandez, aide on Med Surg went above and beyond their line of duty to insure my health and comfort. Everyone on the floor did an outstanding job in my overall care!"

"I enjoyed all the staff in ICU! They were the best! They all were very nice and understanding with me. I had the greatest bunch of professionals ever!"

HENRIETTA THE HIPAA HIPPO: The Little Things We Can Do to Protect PHI

HIPAA requires us to always make reasonable efforts to protect our patients' information. Always follow the policies below to ensure patient privacy::

BULLETIN BOARDS may not contain any documents with PHI of patients, unless the patient has authorized the display in accordance with the AUTHORIZATION TO USE OR DISCLOSE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION. - This includes:

Baby pictures (even without a name or other identifying information)

Cards and notes of appreciation

Computer Screens:

- a. Computer screens at each workstation must be positioned, when possible, so that only authorized users at that workstation can read the display. Privacy filters should be used on any that can be readily seen by the public
- b. Computer displays will be configured to go blank, or to display a screen saver when left unattended for more than a brief period of time. The Privacy and Security Officials will determine the period of time. Wherever practicable, reverting from the screen saver to the display of data will require a password.
- c. Computer screens left unattended for longer periods of time will log off the user. The Security and Privacy Officials will determine the period of time.

Conversations

- a. Conversations concerning patients' claims or other PHI must be conducted in a way that reduces the likelihood of being overheard by others.
- b. Wherever reasonably possible, noise inhibitors may be used to reduce the opportunity for conversations to be overheard.
- c. Avoid discussion PHI in public areas such as the cafeteria, waiting rooms, smoking areas, etc.

Desks and countertops

- a. Claims and other medical record documents that contain PHI must be placed face down on counters, desks, and other public places where third parties can see them.
- b. Wherever it is reasonably possible to do so, claims and other documents containing PHI will not be left on desks and countertops after business hours or for extended periods of time unsupervised. Supervisors will take reasonable steps to provide all work areas where PHI is used in paper form with lockable storage bins, lockable desk drawers, or other means to secure PHI during periods when the area is left unattended.
- c. In areas where locked storage after hours cannot reasonably be accomplished, PHI must be kept out of sight.

Disposal of paper with PHI:

- a. Paper documents containing PHI must be put into a shredding container when no longer needed.

HENRIETTA



REMEMBER: Only YOU can protect patient information!



WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?



In the world of emergencies you have to be prepared for just about anything anymore, but the subject of awareness for this month may surprise most people that have roots here in Texas. You see this month is Earthquake awareness month. And no don't look at your calendar to see if this is an April fools' joke. I won't tell you how long ago but when I started in emergency management and disaster preparedness you would have been laughed out of the room for suggesting that an earthquake needed to be on any assessment tool for Texas- Heck that only happens in California, Right?

Well I am here to tell you that since that time – it has changed. Today on nearly any disaster assessment tool in the nation but especially in Texas earthquakes are truly there. So you are laughing now right – because the only time the ground has shook under your feet it wasn't because the earth was shaking it was love, or any other number or earthshaking events right? Would it surprise you to know that as I write this that Texas has experienced 20 recorded earthquakes in the month of February, while most have been undetectable to most people living in the areas a few like the 4.0 in Amarillo rattled the window for several miles around the center.

While most of these quakes have occurred in West Texas as in west of Midland the occurrence patterns suggest that they are truly occurring further to the East in Texas yearly, and even in the Southern areas of Texas. February 17 a 2.4 earthquake occurred in Karnes City Texas.

So how exactly do you prepare for an earthquake? First of all you have to react and recognize what is happening, and that may be pretty difficult to do in some cases. Most earthquakes in Texas fall in the 1.0 -3.0 category and only under very favorable conditions such as the epicenter or actual location of the plate being very close to the surface will it be felt. On the other hand 3.0-3.9 are usually noticed especially by those that live in multi-story buildings or those that are at rest. This strength of quake is known to rock cars and be similar to the vibrations felt when standing in close proximity or being passed by a large truck. Most animal react to these as well. 4.0-4.9 will rock your bed throw a few dishes around and an audible rumble or cracking sound may be experienced. Moderate structural damage may be incurred. 5.0 stronger are those that some refer to as "the ones that rearrange the furniture for you".

42 Earthquakes were recorded in Texas in 2018 with the strongest being a 5.4 with a epicenter being 16 miles southwest of Amarillo, and the closest one being 9 miles north of Snyder. So how can you prepare for something you might not even feel? It is a matter of being aware that they can and do happen and that when they do happen even the small ones can cause disruption in our everyday life. These quakes can and have disrupted city water supplies by pipes being damaged, they have disrupted gas transportation through high pressure lines located underground and some have even disrupted electrical supply lines.





So while there is not an exact preparation that you can take in preparation of earthquakes because there won't be a watch or warning issue prior to them happening - you can be prepared for any type of disaster that might interrupt any of the services that we all take for granted. This means having food available that does not require heating, can be removed or opened without the use of electricity or having a manual means to open it. It means that you have a water supply stored that would support your families drinking needs for a minimum of 4 days and the same with the amount of food being stored. These supplies in addition should be foods that will last for a long time without being cooled or refrigerated. Being prepared is recognizing that after any event that anything located underground may become hazardous (gas lines, electric lines and even water may become dangerous.) So in general it is ---**JUST BEING PREPARED FOR ANY DISASTER!**



Upcoming Events

March 5th: Scrub Sale

March 10th-16th: Patient Safety
Awareness Week

March 13th: Lunch & Learn:
Noon – 1 pm

March 14th: Pot Luck @ Noon,
Med Surg Break Room

March 17th: St. Patrick's Day

March 27th: National Diabetes Alert Day

March is National Nutrition Month &
National Social Work Month!



