



# Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center

## Siemens Supports Hospital's Commitment to Excellence with Fire Services for Healthcare Accreditation™ Program

[usa.siemens.com/fire-healthcare-accreditation](http://usa.siemens.com/fire-healthcare-accreditation)

Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center, a 214-bed facility located in Central Washington, provides a full complement of inpatient and outpatient services, including the valley's only open-heart surgery, advanced imaging, comprehensive robotics, and state-of-the-art neurosurgery. It provides one of only two single-stay cardiac units in the State of Washington. The hospital's national rankings, awards, certifications, and accreditations demonstrate the entire team's desire to deliver excellent care.

### Client Objectives

The Joint Commission (TJC) has recently increased its focus on standard EC.02.03.05, which specifically addresses the requirements for maintenance, testing, and inspection of fire safety equipment and building features, including fire alarm systems, automatic sprinkler systems, portable fire extinguishers, sliding and rolling fire doors, fire and smoke dampers, shutdown for air handling equipment, and automatic fire extinguishing systems. EC.02.03.05 repeatedly makes TJC's top ten list of most frequently cited standards. Therefore, it is of particular concern as a hospital prepares for its accreditation survey. There are many pitfalls to compliance, not only with performance of the tests, but also with the documentation of that performance.

Bruce Epps, Director of Plant Services at Yakima Regional, wanted to be sure that the hospital's new Fire & Life Safety System, the Siemens FireFinder® XLS, was correctly documented, reported, and ready for the next TJC survey.

### Siemens Solution

Siemens demonstrated an in-depth understanding of local requirements and NFPA codes and established a level of trust with Bruce while upgrading the hospital's fire safety system.

To help keep Bruce prepared for TJC, NFPA, or local surveyor visits, Siemens Fire & Safety Sales Executive Rick Beach proposed a Fire & Life Safety service program and a Healthcare Accreditation program.

"A 24/7 facility can pose a number of challenges that have to be solved on any given day. I don't have the time to continually think about fire & life safety documentation. Rick presented me with a solution that would allow me to confidently greet any surveyor," said Bruce.

Siemens provides total building solutions for all fire alarm, life safety, and security needs tailored to a customer's specific application, requirements, and budget. At Yakima Regional, a customized Siemens Fire Services for Healthcare Accreditation Program helps Bruce simplify and streamline the survey process and keeps the Fire & Life Safety equipment performing optimally with scheduled testing, inspection, and maintenance. The program includes a comprehensive documentation management system to ensure that all fire and life safety documents are properly completed, organized, and easily accessible.

Siemens Fire & Safety Operations Manager Aaron Carlton reviewed all of the existing documentation – including National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, local fire codes, and State and Federal healthcare accreditation standards for Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Aaron then combined all documents and reports into one Siemens Joint Commission binder, and reorganized the older accreditation documentation.

"A key component of this program is having a knowledgeable, results-driven Siemens service team on-hand to help Bruce achieve his goals," said Rick. "Siemens

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# Siemens expertise keeps Yakima Regional ready for announced or unannounced surveys

understands the intricate differences required for maintenance, inspection, testing, and recording of the hospital's Fire & Life Safety equipment. Bruce relies on us for assistance in interpreting new and existing Joint Commission requirements."

The service aspect of the program ensures testing, inspections, and preventative maintenance are performed on schedule. A Siemens technician is also on call 24/7 to quickly respond to emergencies. The key areas that are routinely inspected, tested, and maintained to ensure compliance with EC.02.03.05-EP25 include:

- Fire Alarm Testing, Inspection, & Services
- Elevator Safety Systems
- Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Fire Doors/Roll Down or Drop Doors

## Client Results

One organized binder stores test reports that are standardized and customized to meet TJC's documentation requirement of EC.02.03.05-EP25. The binder also contains the annual delivery schedule, work orders, and other related documentation. Aaron visits Yakima Regional each quarter and holds regular Joint Commission Compliance

Review Meetings when necessary. This helps any survey – whether announced or unannounced – run smoothly. With Siemens, Yakima Regional remains ready to meet Joint Commission standards and maintain accreditation status.

Combining the inspections and reports into one book has made it easier for surveyors to read and find exactly what they need. "Having Siemens as a second set of eyes has reduced errors. In fact, in 2012, there weren't any direct impact findings," noted Bruce. "EPs and statements are right on the cover sheet, so they're easy to find and the surveyors can quickly review processes and steps."

"Yakima is committed to maintaining the highest levels of safety and excellence in quality of care. Maintaining our Joint Commission accreditation is one key way we prove our intentions," said Bruce. Bruce is extending the Siemens Fire Services for Healthcare Accreditation Program to ensure compliance at Toppenish Community Hospital in the lower Yakima Valley region.

## Siemens applies the following concepts to deliver customer-focused services:

- **Compliance:** setting a priority focus on fire & life safety and the impact it has on patient safety and care.
- **Organization:** implementing a proven scheduling and documentation system.
- **Testing:** a service team that understands life safety systems and applies the NFPA standards while performing the required task.
- **Acumen:** a commitment of being versed in the healthcare accreditation process and requirements.



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