

***Film Badges***

So, you find that some of the physicians and some of the staff refuse to wear their film badges during fluoro procedures, or they will not turn them in for processing on time – and you want to know if it is really important enough to make a stink about?

The answer is: **Yes !!** The purpose of the film badge is to protect the facility from liability.

Oh, so you thought the purpose of the film badge was to protect the employee?!!!! Well, it does that as well, but the true purpose is for the facility to be able to monitor the employee's exposure. If the badges are not being worn, or if they are not being turned in for processing, then 10 CFR 20 and Title 17 are being violated. If the facility allows this situation to continue, then you are passively condoning the violation and you have very little (if any) legal defense should you ever be sued by one of the people who were allowed to violate these regulations.

If it is your job to assure the badges are being worn and collected promptly and if you are having trouble doing this job, it is recommended you take the issue to the Radiation Safety Committee. If you are the RSO and the Committee is unable to act, then it is your responsibility to protect the facility by going to higher management with the issue. The one thing you cannot do is to ignore the situation. This is not good for the facility and it is not good for the physician or staff.