

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

VACUUM OUTAGE (SUCTION)

Purpose: To establish guidelines to best meet the needs of our patients during a vacuum outage.

If you experience a vacuum outage in your area immediately notify Physical Plant. After hours and on weekends notify the Switchboard who will notify the Physical Plant employee on site. Physical Plant will notify Hospital Administration of outage. After hours Switchboard will notify Administrator on call.

Policy: The following individuals will be notified immediately if a vacuum outage should occur:

1. Hospital Administrator / Administrator on-call
2. Director of Physical Plant
3. Safety Officer

Hospital Administrator

1. Contact the House Manager and request a survey to determine the number, type, and locations where potable suctions are needed.
2. Contact Central Medical Supply and request number of portable suctions machines needed and give location(s) to which Central Medical Supply will deliver portable suction units.
3. Upon receipt of above information, see that potable suction units are distributed to areas where needed. Hospital Administrator and Nursing Administrator will determine areas to which available suction will be taken. Potable suction units are limited.

a. Priority:

1. OR
2. Labor/Delivery
3. ICU Units
4. Patient care floors
5. Emergency Room

Physical Plant

1. Will assess the situation and report to Hospital Administrator concerning approximate length of outage.
2. Will see that appropriate support personnel are brought in to make repairs and get system back on line.

Safety Office

1. Report to Hospital Administrator and assist in the implementation of plan and logistics of equipment movement.

Central Medical Supply

1. Upon request of Hospital Administrator/House Manager, Central Medical Supply will distribute their supply of portable suction devices.

Nursing Service

1. Survey to determine the number, type, and location of units needed and use portable suction devices located on Crash Carts.