# How do I prepare for a Joint Commission Environment of Care survey?

### THE DIRECT ANSWER

What this page covers: a practical prep plan for a Joint Commission Environment of Care (now Physical Environment) survey: rounds documentation, staff readiness, and a 90-day countdown checklist. Who it is for: facility managers and EOC or safety committee leads with a survey window open.

## START WITH THE THREE PLANS SURVEYORS STILL OPEN

- Joint Commission no longer requires hospitals and critical access hospitals to keep separate written management plans for safety, security, hazardous materials and waste, utilities, and medical equipment.

## MAKE YOUR ROUNDS DOCUMENTATION AIRTIGHT

- Fire protection and suppression systems inspection, testing, and maintenance (formerly EC.02.03.05; now evaluated against NFPA 101 and the CMS K-tags through the Physical Environment chapter) — a perennial top finding
- Ventilation and pressure relationships in critical care, surgical, and isolation areas (formerly EC.02.05.01)
- Medical equipment inspection and maintenance records
- Hazardous materials storage, labeling, and spill response supplies
- Security incident tracking and response

## FIELD QUESTION

**Is the Environment of Care chapter gone under Accreditation 360?**

For hospitals and critical access hospitals, yes in name. Effective January 1, 2026, Accreditation 360 folded the EC and LS chapters into a new Physical Environment chapter, and moved a few topics — workplace violence worksite analysis, security risks, utility systems, and imaging safety — into National Performance Goals.

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Caution: codes, editions, and targets vary by facility and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). Figures marked as common practice are facility targets, not code requirements. Confirm against your AHJ and the current code text before acting.