Who is responsible for implementing ILSM on a construction project?

THE DIRECT ANSWER

Facility leadership owns ILSM — but implementation is a team sport with named roles. The safety officer (or designated life safety lead) typically administers the program: performing the ILSM assessment, documenting daily inspections, and reporting to the safety committee. Facilities management implements the physical measures. Construction management coordinates the contractor side. Clinical leadership covers the affected patient-care areas. And administration is kept informed through safety committee reporting.

THE ROLE BREAKDOWN

- Safety officer / life safety lead — conducts the ILSM assessment for each project or deficiency, determines which measures apply, performs or assigns daily inspections, maintains the documentation file.
- Facilities management — implements temporary equivalent systems, additional equipment, barrier work, signage; tests temporary systems monthly; restores and verifies protections at closeout.
- Construction/project manager — enforces contractor compliance: housekeeping, smoking prohibition, hot-work controls, egress maintenance for construction workers, daily coordination with the safety officer.
- Infection preventionist — runs the parallel ICRA; coordinates with the safety officer so barriers serve both programs.
- Department managers of affected areas — ensure their staff are trained, drills happen on their shifts, and problems get reported up.
- Administration — receives status through safety committee reports; provides resources when ILSM requires them (fire watch staffing, temporary systems).
- Local fire department — notified when ILSM is in effect, per policy.

WHERE RESPONSIBILITY FAILS

- The classic failure mode is diffusion : everyone assumed the contractor handled barriers, the contractor assumed facilities did, and nobody inspected them daily. The ILSM policy must name names — not departments, people.

FIELD QUESTION

Can the contractor be responsible for ILSM?

The contractor implements contractor-side measures (housekeeping, barriers they build, worker training), but the facility retains overall responsibility. You can't outsource accountability for life safety.

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