

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-149
Issued May 1, 1986
Revised May 12, 2000

SUBJECT: Overexposure Symptoms: Advising Employees

**AFFECTED CODES/
DIRECTIVES:**

IHFOM, Chapter 3, General Inspection Procedures: Employee Interviews

PURPOSE: This directive provides guidelines for advising employees who exhibit symptoms of overexposure or who are complaining about symptoms of overexposure to workplace hazards.

BACKGROUND: During the course of consultative or inspection activity, OR-OSHA personnel may encounter employees exhibiting or complaining of symptoms potentially related to exposures at their workplace or may also be aware that an exposure could be present at that workplace. Dealing with such employees poses a dilemma for the professional. Training and experience does not qualify OR-OSHA personnel to assume the responsibilities of a medical doctor. Consequently, the following actions shall be taken when such situations are encountered.

ACTION: OR-OSHA personnel are advised not to diagnose worker illness or symptoms. This does not preclude OR-OSHA personnel from informing employees that certain symptoms or illnesses may result from a particular exposure(s), and that workers having questions or concerns may best direct these to qualified medical sources. Further questions can be referred to the State Board of Medical Examiners, 229-5770.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**

This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.