

Salon Safety Strategies

Regardless of whether yours is a large salon, part of a national chain, or a small hair studio in your former garage, it is a good idea for your business to have a safety strategy plan. A successful business is one with a contingency plan.

Some salons are better at planning for safety-concern situations than others. Corporations operating chain stores are more likely to have a written policy to address situations like an injury to a client or an employee. Yet the same mishaps can occur in a salon of any size. If your coworker or business partner were seriously injured at work, does your salon have a plan? If a client were burned by chemicals during a treatment, does your salon have guidelines and documentation?

The continuing viability of your business is a concern, too. Salons, like restaurants, deal with a considerable volume of cash in one central location. An unsecured cash register is a temptation to desperate individuals.

Here are some questions salon management and operators should ask in developing a safety plan:

- Does your salon have a safety strategic plan?
- What was the last safety-training course you attended?
- What are your expectations about salon safety?
- What are your safety goals for this year?
- Who is responsible for salon safety?
- How do you know you are working safely? Is there a safety checklist?
- What happens when you have a safety concern?
- When an injury occurs, how do employees react?
- Do you have any teenaged employees? Are they properly supervised?
- Do you have appropriate insurance for the facility and for all licensees?
- Has there ever been an emergency situation in your salon?
- Has the salon ever been robbed?
- Does your salon keep consent forms for services rendered to clients?

- Does your salon interview clients? Keep a preference questionnaire or chart?
- Are operators aware of medical conditions, medications, etc., of clients that might interact with services provided?

For more information on workplace safety, visit the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Web site, www.osha.gov.

Eyebrow threading

According to the legal definition of cosmetology “the removal of superfluous hair ... by use of mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances or preparations, ... creams, or by any other means ...” includes the maintenance of eyebrows. The board has determined that the service of *eyebrow threading* requires either a cosmetologist or esthetician license to perform and should be offered in or through the auspices of a licensed salon. An exception would be service is provided by the staff of a physician’s office. Board inspectors have begun to write citations against individuals who are not in compliance.

Farewell from Board Administrator

After serving for five years, Board Administrator **Hilarene Staller** is relocating out of state with her family.

“I have very much enjoyed my time with the State Board, and sincerely hope that I will be able to find another position equally stimulating and challenging,” she said. Staller’s priority was improving the interface between licensees and the board, and as a parting gesture updated board applications and posted them to the Web site.

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