November is Radiation Safety Month

To support Radiation Safety in North Carolina, Governor Roy Cooper has declared November Radiation Safety Month.

During the month of November, the Radiation Protection Section salutes all professionals throughout North Carolina in the field of radiation working to minimize the hazards of radiation exposure. “We appreciate their efforts to provide quality care to our citizens and their focus on safety,” said Lee Cox, Chief of the Radiation Protection Section.

North Carolina registers more than 8,200 X-ray facilities, 250 of which perform mammograms. Additionally, 1,800 facilities are licensed to handle radioactive material in the medical, academic and industrial communities, with uses ranging from road pavement tests to advanced cancer treatments.

The Radiation Protection Section, part of the DHHS Division of Health Service Regulation, encourages radiologic technologists and all operators of X-ray equipment to be mindful of the importance of reducing unnecessary exposure to radiation in medical imaging. Details are available at: www.imagegently.org, and www.imagewisely.org.

To build upon imaging safety culture, a new rule 10A NCAC .15 .0611 was promulgated on October 1, 2017 to address all human diagnostic uses of Computed Tomography (CT). This rule can be found at .0611 . CT Technologist training and experience found in .0611 (d) now outlines specific personnel requirements. Two documents were developed to assist technologists in understanding how to meet the initial qualification requirements. Those documents may be found at CT Guidance and Checklist.

The Radiation Protection Section focuses on promoting a culture of safety among providers by reviewing their radiation safety programs and ensuring that all occupational staff are trained and are aware of radiation safety practices.