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Quincy hospital passes second fire re-inspection

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QUINCY — The Quincy Valley Medical Center passed a second fire re-inspection Nov. 24, according to hospital Chief Executive Officer Mehdi Merred.

Earlier in the year the Office of the State Fire Marshal tagged the hospital with a series of infractions during an inspection.

According to a hospital document Merred gave to the Quincy Valley Post-Register on Nov. 23, all of the 21 original deficiencies are now corrected.

"I don't think we'll be reprimanded for any of the initial concerns," Merred said.

At Monday's Grant County Hospital District 2 commissioners meeting, Merred said the hospital has nothing to hide in the inspection results, and vowed to keep working until the hospital is under full compliance.

"In no way are we covering up any information regarding this matter," he said. "This is something we're taking very seriously. I have no issue sharing anything. The taxpayers should know what's happened so far."

During an April 21 inspection, the Office of the State Fire Marshal found 21 violations, and as a result decided to withhold approval status at that time.

Many of the violations were related to fires and emergencies, including:

- Not having a written plan for the protection of all patients and for their evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Not conducting fire drills as required by the code.
- Not providing a fire alarm system that will provide effective warning of fire in any part of the building.
- And not maintaining fire extinguishers so that they are unobstructed and available for immediate use.

A re-inspection was conducted July 14. Twelve of the 21 deficiencies were not corrected at that time, Merred said. The violations that were not corrected at the time led to the second re-inspection late last month.

"On July 23, we started to develop a plan that would make sure we're in compliance and ensure these processes are in place," Merred said.

"We want to have a pro-active approach to this instead of reactive. We're taking steps to fix these deficiencies. We know mistakes have been made. We admit that, and are taking steps to correct them."

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