



RISKAlert Report Updated: October 23, 2018

Richland, Washington

A Hospital Employee at Kadlec Regional Medical Center came back to the hospital on his day off, threatening to kill other employees and himself. Other violent attacks on staff have also occurred recently including choking of a nurse in the ICU!

In a workplace violence incident on Oct. 18, 2018, Kadlec employee Matt Ganz, 51, walked into the hospital where he worked, on his day off and began talking to fellow co-workers about how he wanted to die by suicide and how **he would kill others as well**, said Lt. Chris Lee.

Several people called 911 to report seeing a man with a gun at the 270-bed hospital. Richland police responded and were on the scene within a minute and a half. But Ganz was gone before Richland and Kennewick police along with deputies from the Benton County Sheriff's Office finished searching the hospital.

Police continued to hunt for Ganz and officers finally found him about 40 minutes later on the 300 block of East Third Avenue **drunk behind the wheel of his truck**, police said. He was booked into the Benton County jail for making threats, for interfering with a health care facility and for driving under the influence (DUI).

Kadlec Regional has experienced other incidents including multiple staff members who were hurt by patients, and it highlights the problem of workplace violence in healthcare. In one incident, **a patient in the ER hurt 3 nurses, a doctor, and a security officer**. In another recent case, **a patient in Intensive Care choked a nurse, as she was trying to change his IV**.

The nurse in question posted these remarks on Facebook, **"Let me tell you, having a strong individual's hands around your neck, the inability to breathe, let alone call for help, to the point where you can't see a thing and can only hear an emergency "staff assist" tone going off, is one of the absolutely gut-wrenching, most terrifying feelings anyone could ever imagine. It didn't help that it was preceded with the words "I'm gonna kill you."** Ashley Schade described in a Facebook post about the event that has now gone viral.

Both of those patients were charged with assault.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- 1. Workplace Violence is still a major problem in healthcare, with most of the violent incidents directed at nurses. More needs to be done.**
- 2. Report every incident to management and increase staff to avoid having nurses work alone.**

THANKS FOR READING THE RISKAlert Report©

For more information and a free subscription: write to: caroline@riskandsecurityllc.com We provide and certify the best Healthcare CMS All-Hazards Hospital & Healthcare Facility Risk Assessments; Facilities Active Shooter Assessments, Active Shooter Training and Tabletop Drills.

Find out more at www.riskandsecurityllc.com .