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## industry news.

### ☒ Many nursing homes run risk of catastrophic fires

More than half the nation's 16,000 nursing homes violate federal fire safety standards each year, and government regulations let thousands of older facilities operate without the sprinklers or smoke alarms often required in buildings used by the public. . To read more, go to: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-10-06-nursing-homes-cover\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-10-06-nursing-homes-cover_x.htm)

### ☒ Nursing homes seen deficient on basic care

Tens of thousands of nursing home residents must be sent to the hospital each year because of a breakdown in basic medical care at the facilities, specialists say, a scenario that exposes frail elderly people to unnecessary trauma and illness. To read more, go to: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/07/03/nursing\\_homes\\_seen\\_deficient\\_on\\_basic\\_care/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/07/03/nursing_homes_seen_deficient_on_basic_care/).

## shop talk.

Felicia Wilson LMSW, LNHA

### Honesty as a Leadership Trait

People want to follow an honest leader. Years ago, many employees started out by assuming that their leadership was honest simply because the authority of their position. With modern scandals this is no longer true.

When you start a leadership position, you need to assume that people will think you are a little dishonest. In order to be seen as an honest individual, you will have to go out of your way to display honesty. People will not assume you are honest simply because you have never been caught lying.

One of the most frequent places where leaders miss an opportunity to display honesty is in handling mistakes. Much of a leader's job is to try new things and refine the ideas that don't work. However, many leaders want to avoid failure to the extent that they don't admit when something did not work.. To read more on leadership traits, go to: <http://www.leadership501.com/node/30/five-most-important-leadership-traits>.

## trivia time.

What percentage of American's age 65 and older lived in nursing homes in 2000? The first ten correct responses e-mailed to [support@patientplacement.com](mailto:support@patientplacement.com) will receive a free gift. Be sure to include your mailing address in the e-mail. Congratulations to: **Cindy O'shea, Chris Osborn, Gena Palmer, Cheryl Fisher and Nancy Freeze**. They won a free gift for answering the previous trivia questions. The answer was: 15%.

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## fun facts

### Did you know that:

- In 2000, 4.5 percent of Americans 65 years and older lived in nursing homes, a decline from 5.1 percent in 1990.
- In 1999-2000, the average nursing facility patient required assistance with 3.75 activities of daily living. Five common activities are used to measure the functionality of a patient-bathing, dressing, transferring, toileting and eating.
- Registered nurses in Medicare/Medicaid-certified nursing homes spend an average of 42 minutes a day with each patient. Licensed practical nurses spend the same amount of time per patient per day. Certified nursing assistants spend an average of 2 hours and 6 minutes per day with each patient. This results in 3½ hours of direct and indirect care from all sources per resident in a 24-hour period.
- Nearly one in every four nursing homes (23 percent) is below the suggested minimum staffing level for total licensed staff.