

This Month's Topic: Emergency Management



Nobody expects an emergency or disaster – especially one that affects them, their employees, and their business. Yet the simple truth is that emergencies and disasters can strike anyone, anytime, and anywhere.

Every year emergencies take their toll on business and industry — in lives and dollars. But something can be done. Business and industry can limit injuries and damages and return more quickly to normal operations if they plan ahead.

What Is An Emergency?

An emergency is any unplanned event that can cause deaths or significant injuries to employees, customers or the public; or that can shut down your business, disrupt operations, cause physical or environmental damage, or threaten the facility's financial standing or public image. Emergencies may be natural or manmade and include the following:

- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Fires
- Hazardous materials incident
- Toxic gas releases
- Chemical spills
- Radiological accidents
- Communications failure
- Explosions
- Civil disturbances
- Workplace violence resulting in bodily harm and trauma

What Is Emergency Management?

Emergency management is the process of preparing for, mitigating, responding to and recovering from an emergency. Emergency management is a dynamic process. Planning, though critical, is not the only component. Training, conducting drills, testing equipment and coordinating activities with the community are other important functions.

The best way is to prepare to respond to an emergency before it happens. Few people can think clearly and logically in a crisis, so it is important to do so in advance, when you have time to be thorough.

“The Bay Area, and California as a whole, need to have better disaster preparedness. Consider that you may have to survive independently for at least 3 days, and most likely longer. It all starts with proactively planning for emergencies. If and when disaster strikes, you’ll be able to react to whatever happens, and flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions.”

Sean Sevilla
Project Engineer
Alisto Engineering Group, Inc.

Alisto Engineering Safety Statistics 2014

Motor Vehicle Accidents/ Total Miles Driven	Lost Work Days/ Total Work Days	Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
01/01/14– 06/30/14	01/01/14– 06/30/14	01/01/14– 06/30/14
0/130,158 miles	0* day/ 123 days	1*

** From BC Environmental Insurance*

September is National Preparedness Month

The 2014 National Preparedness Month theme is: “Be Disaster Aware, Take Action to Prepare.”

FEMA recommends using digital media tools as a way to promote National Preparedness Month, September 1st-30th, 2014.

Federal Emergency Management Agency educates and empowers Americans to take some simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Ready asks individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses. All Americans should have some basic supplies on hand in order to survive for at least three days if an emergency occurs.

Following is a listing of some basic items that every emergency supply kit should include. However, it is important that individuals review this list and consider where they live and the unique needs of their family in order to create an emergency supply kit that will meet these needs. Individuals should also consider having at least two emergency supply kits, one full kit at home and smaller portable kits in their workplace, vehicle or other places they spend time.

PPE For Emergencies

Employees may need personal protective equipment to evacuate during an emergency. Personal protective equipment must be based on the potential hazards in the workplace. Assess your workplace to determine potential hazards and the appropriate controls and protective equipment for those hazards. Personal protective equipment may include items such as the following:

- Safety glasses, goggles, or face shields for eye protection
- Hard hats and safety shoes for head and foot protection
- Proper respirators
- Chemical suits, gloves, hoods, and boots for body protection from chemicals
- Special body protection for abnormal environmental conditions such as extreme temperatures
- Any other special equipment or warning devices necessary for hazards unique to your worksite

Hazardous Substances

No matter what kind of business you run, you could potentially face an emergency involving hazardous materials such as flammable, explosive, toxic, noxious, corrosive, biological, oxidizable, or radioactive substances.

The source of the hazardous substances could be external, such as a local chemical plant that catches on fire or an oil truck that overturns on a nearby freeway. The source may be within your facility. Regardless of the source, these events could have a direct impact on employees and the business and should be addressed by an emergency action plan.

If you use or store hazardous substances at your worksite, you face an increased risk of an emergency involving hazardous materials and should address this possibility in your emergency action plan. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) requires employers who use hazardous chemicals to inventory them, keep the manufacturer-supplied Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for them in a place accessible to workers, label containers of these chemicals with their hazards, and train employees in ways to protect themselves against those hazards.

A good way to start is to determine from your hazardous chemical inventory what hazardous chemicals you use and to gather the MSDSs for the chemicals. MSDSs describe the hazards that a chemical may present, list the precautions to take when handling, storing, or using the substance, and outline emergency and first-aid procedures.

Alisto Hazard Communication Overview

Alisto Engineering Group is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace. It is the company's intention to comply with federal, state, and local health and safety laws. Hazard communication is required by federal and California Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) under 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.1200 and California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 5194. Haz Com designates responsible parties, provides an inventory of hazardous substances to which employees can be exposed, informs employees about labeling systems for hazardous materials, and trains employees on workplace chemical hazards and appropriate precautions to take when working with those hazardous materials. The purpose of this program is to protect employees from hazards. *(For more information refer to Alisto SOP 11 – Hazard Communication)*

Emergency Supply Kit

Assemble the following items to include in a basic Emergency Supply Kit to use at your home, office, school and/or in a vehicle:

- Water - one gallon per person, per day
- Food – non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items
- Flashlight
- Battery powered or hand crank radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply), other medical supplies, and medical paperwork (e.g., medication list and pertinent medical information)
- Multipurpose tool (e.g., Swiss army knife)
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (e.g., proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Local maps
- Extra set of car keys and house keys
- Manual can opener

References

1. <http://www.fema.gov/>
2. <http://www.ready.gov/kit>
3. <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/gettingstarted.html>
4. <http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/>
5. Alisto SOP 11 – Hazard Communication
6. The Disaster Handbook 1998 National Edition - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - University of Florida
7. How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations - OSHA 3088 - 2001 (Revised)

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