

52nd NATIONAL SAFETY WEEK CELEBRATION

March 5th 2023 – Emergency Preparedness

“Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy”

~ Max Mayfield



Employees in the impacted area may face a number of hazards as a result of emergencies. When an emergency occurrence occurs, preparation is essential to ensuring that employers and employees have the right tools, know where to go, and know how to stay safe. These disaster preparedness and response include information on how to train for emergencies, as well as the dangers that need to be recognized when one arises. Engineering controls, administrative controls, and safe work practices can all be used to prevent or reduce Employees exposure to a variety of dangers. When controls are not feasible, or when such controls are insufficient to reduce Employees exposures to certain hazards to or below safe levels (e.g., an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limit [PEL] or other recognized limit), employers must ensure that their Employees are provided at no cost and correctly use appropriate PPE.

PPE does not by itself remove a hazard; it is merely one part of a broader Employees protection system. Employees must correctly put on, use, and remove the necessary equipment for PPE to be effective. In order to protect employees from exposure to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) contaminants as well as other hazards, PPE may comprise respiratory protection, protective clothes, and protective barriers. PPE is chosen based on predicted hazards, and as a result of monitoring and evaluating actual working conditions, PPE choice may need to be updated. The Emergency Response rule's main objective is to safeguard employees who respond to emergencies as part of their regularly allocated tasks.

Steps of emergency management:

- 1) Prevention: The primary aim of prevention is protecting people from possible natural disasters. Although certain disasters cannot be prevented, preventive methods are intended to offer more long-lasting protection against them. With sound evacuation plans, environmental planning, and design standards, the danger of fatalities and injuries can be reduced.
- 2) Preparedness: Activities improve a community's capacity to react in the event of a disaster. The creation of mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding, training for emergency responders and concerned people, holding catastrophe drills to refresh training and test capabilities, and launching all-hazards education campaigns are typical preparedness steps.

- 3) **Response:** Hazards strategy is used in the coordination and management of resources (including personnel, equipment, and supplies) during a response, as well as actions taken to ensure the safety of people, property, and the environment. The response phase comes into play when a major catastrophe or disaster occurs.
- 4) **Recovery:** Activities that continue after the emergency period to handle stabilization efforts and restore vital community functions are referred to as recovery. After the threat to human life has passed, the recuperation phase starts. Restoring some semblance of normalcy to the damaged area is the aim of the recovery phase.
- 5) **Mitigation:** Actions that either prevent emergencies, lessen the probability that they will occur, or lessen the negative effects of emergencies that cannot be avoided. Creating zoning regulations and construction laws, adding shutters, and building barriers are examples of common mitigation strategies.

Emergency preparedness team at plant must know the following:

- Activation of fire alarm
- Contact the public fire brigade
- Phone numbers for various emergency agencies related to plant
- Physical address of the plant location
- directions to an ambulance or other emergency service to reach plant
- Qualified first aid personnel at plant
- First aid equipment located at plant
- Emergency exit route within & outside the plant
- Fire extinguisher location at plant
- Safety showers and eyewash stations at plant
- MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for the chemical used in plant work area
- Knowledge to clean up the chemical spill within plant