

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

While most employees are familiar with fire and emergency drills that lead them to an outdoor assembly point, the Emergency Action Plan will also have shelter-in-place procedures for other types of emergencies.

- When there is a chemical, biological, or radiological release into the environment in such quantity and/or proximity to a place of business, then it may be safer to remain indoors rather than to evacuate employees.
- If an earthquake occurs, it is safer to remain indoors and brace against a sturdy frame rather than to quickly try to evacuate employees.
- In the case of a tornado warning in the area, employees should proceed to the nearest tornado shelter or designated area inside the building, like an inner hallway.
- A designated person should survey the immediate area for unfamiliar objects if there is a bomb or terrorism threat. If a suspicious object is found, evacuate the area immediately.

OSHA Standard 1910.38(e) *An employer must designate and train employees to assist in a safe and orderly evacuation of other employees.*



- Evacuation maps should be posted in the workplace.
- Everyone in the workplace should be aware of the Emergency Action Plan and familiarize themselves with the posted evacuation diagrams.
- Exit signs must be clearly visible and emergency exits must not be blocked.
- Assembly points at the exit discharge should be identified ahead of time and known by the employees. Workers should report immediately to the designated assembly area upon evacuation.
- No one should go home or to an offsite location other than assembly area during an emergency evacuation.
- During any emergency drill, all employees should follow the evacuation procedure. No one stays behind!

Discussion

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Are evacuation maps posted and do you know where to find them?

Do you know where the outdoor assembly point is located?