

The Emergency Action Plan

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The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) provides information to employees so their actions taken during an emergency are better coordinated thus preventing injury and loss of life/property. It is required by OSHA regulation 1910.38 and for businesses with more than 10 employees a printed copy of the EAP must be physically located in the workplace. The EAP will vary depending on the industry, but common topics include actions to be taken in case of: fire, assault/violence in the workplace, bomb threat, explosion, hazardous material spill, criminal/suspicious activity, facility evacuation, injury to personnel, severe weather, flood, earthquake, mudslide, robbery/theft, and electrical power outages. Although no EAP can consist of every scenario, the committee responsible for creating the EAP should focus on the most probable events when creating protocols. The dissemination of information to all employees is vital to the successful implementation of an Emergency Action Plan. Employees should be encouraged to review the EAP and recognize early warning alarms or other methods used to signal an emergency event. Leadership duties should be assigned to capable individuals and rehearsals should be conducted periodically to ensure employees understand their assigned tasks during an emergency event. For additional information please visit:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=9726&p_table=STANDARDS