



DEVELOPING A MULTI-HAZARD CONTINGENCY PLAN



The recent Hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico and the fires in California and other states out west is a not-so-gentle reminder of Mother Nature's wrath. The death toll from the hurricanes continues to rise, and was greater than 43 in California from the fires as of the writing of this article. Many of these deaths were preventable – many simply chose not to leave their homes in a timely manner and paid the ultimate price.

What is your plan at work to battle the elements of nature? What happens if you have employees who are trapped within your building due to a flash flood, tornado, ice storm or fire? What are your SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) for such an event? If you do not have the answers to this and many other questions, then you may need to review or implement a multi-hazard contingency plan (some call it an Integrated Contingency Plan) at your facility. This plan should address issues such as HAZMAT incidents, fire, weather related emergencies, bomb threats, active shooter, medical emergencies and many others. OSHA requires an Emergency Action Plan and EPA requires a Contingency Plan and quite often, multiple regulatory requirements may be met with a single document.

The following is one type of issue that needs to be included in your contingency plan. Remember, this is simply general information and needs to be made site-specific.



Flash Flooding

Causes:

Flash flooding is usually caused by slow moving thunderstorms and can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. High risk locations include low water crossings, recent burn areas in mountains and urban areas which have pavement and roofs which concentrate rainfall runoff.

Flash flooding may be worsened by topography, soil conditions and ground cover. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.



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Potential Hazards:

- Employees could become trapped or stranded as escape routes
- may be damaged and/or blocked.
- Equipment and personnel could be swept away or covered by water, mud or debris.
- Drowning
- Electrocution
- Mud slides

Possible Actions:

- Activate the action plan.
- Secure equipment and all electrical power.
- Remove all personnel from low-lying areas.
- Stay clear of potential slide areas next to hillsides or on edges of cliff areas.
- Follow directions for evacuation procedures as outlined in the action plan.
- Gather at pre-determined evacuation point and ensure everyone is accounted for.
- If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above ankles, STOP! Turn around and go another way.
- Do not drive through moving water or a flooded roadway.
- Do not attempt to return to the area until an “all clear” signal has been given by a regulatory authority or production management.

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Realize it does not have to be raining at your specific location for a flood to occur. This is just an example of what information needs to be included in your multi-hazard contingency plan and do not forget to TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN!! NASP is including a sample ICP that was developed for a meat processing plant with large amounts of ammonia stored, but may be modified (or used as a comparison) for your facility. Click [here](#) to download this sample plan. For more information on this and other emergency related information, we recommend becoming an NASP member, where you have access to 1000s of pages of information regarding Emergency Response and other safety related issues. Click [here](#) to become a GOLD member now.



Helping Out In A Time Of Need



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NASP recently finished our last CSM of 2017 in Memphis, TN. We had more than 35 students attend this course. As a tribute to “Florida Strong” and “Las Vegas Strong,” NASP will hold our first Certified Safety Manager Courses of 2018 in Las Vegas and Orlando respectively. **In addition, we will contribute \$100 for every student who signs up for our CSM Course between now and November 10th to charities who contribute directly to the victims – every dollar will be spent aiding the people who need it.**

The four recent Hurricanes, including Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate, have devastated portions of Texas, Florida and the entire island of Puerto Rico with a preliminary estimate of over \$235 billion in damage. Countless lives have been permanently affected and it will take months, if not years, for them to resume a life of relative normalcy.



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In addition, last month, a gunman turned the Las Vegas area into a killing field by opening up fire on innocent concert goers. 58 innocent people lost their lives and more than 500 were injured. The families who lost loved ones are reeling from the loss and certainly will need help piecing their lives back together after such a senseless and heinous act.

If you have delayed getting this world-renowned professional safety designation, now is the time to do it. In addition, we will discount your tuition fee by 5% if you sign up before November 10th, 2017 (that's over \$100 savings!).

Don't wait any longer, help yourself in the development of your safety credentials while helping victims of these recent disasters here in the US.

Click below to sign up now.

[Certified Safety Manager \(CSM\) - Classroom - January 29 - February 2, 2018 - Las Vegas, NV](#)

[Certified Safety Manager \(CSM\) - Classroom - February 19 - 23, 2018 - Orlando, FL](#)



IS OSHA TRYING TO CHANGE SAFETY CULTURE?



We always preach in our classes that OSHA is the bare minimum when it comes to ensuring a safe workplace. Realistically, you could be 100% in compliance with OSHA and still have an unsafe workplace. This can be attributed to the fact that, statistically, unsafe behavior makes up around 80% of the root causes of accidents in the workplace. All the written plans, programs and training is not going to change that.

OSHA is beginning to realize this and has recently been updating its regulations to reflect this need in culture change. The latest standards from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) put practical measures in place to improve safety, but also engrain safety as a priority within company culture.

Latest OSHA Regulation Updates

On January 1, 2017, OSHA issued its final rule to improve tracking of workplace injuries and illnesses. Certain employers—companies with 250+ employees in regulated industries or with 20-249 employees in high-risk industries—are now required to document and electronically submit injury and illness data. The required information varies depending on company size and industry, but it is the same information required on their onsite OSHA forms, but now submitted electronically for analysis and public disclosure.

The update also includes advanced anti-retaliation protections. This rule stops employers from discouraging their employees from reporting incidents. Additionally, employers must inform their employees of their right to report without retaliation, which is a task as simple as posting the already-required OSHA poster. There are also further clarifications about the reporting process: it must be simple enough as to not deter or discourage employees from reporting. And, most importantly, it discourages incentive programs from being based on lack of injuries.

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This rule is important because making injury and illness information public will urge employers to focus on safety. Paying more attention to safety saves lives and reduces bottom line costs associated with incidents. It also improves the accuracy of data by ensuring workers will not fear retaliation for reporting injuries or illnesses.

Impact on Company Culture

Aside from preventing injuries and saving lives, these OSHA updates may have a strong impact on developing company culture:

1. Increased emphasis on safety

With OSHA putting more emphasis on safety, company cultures should begin to reflect that. Making injury and illness data public holds employers accountable on a global scale. Employees also have less fear about reporting unsafe conditions, which gives a more accurate picture of what is going on in the company and what improvements can be made.

2. Proactive approach to safety

Increasing the emphasis on safety allows employers to adopt a proactive approach to safety and incident management. Organizations see best results when they invest time and effort in the following:

- **Risk Tools.** Managing risk is essential for preventing incidents. Risk tools help quantify risk so they can be measured against each other and evaluated for improvement. The risk matrix and decision tree are commonly used among EHS professionals.
- **Job Safety Analysis (JSA).** JSA identifies potential hazards throughout each step of a job procedure. Using risk to evaluate each step, you can implement controls or train employees to reduce the risk of incident.
- **Other Leading Indicators.** Other important metrics include near-miss reports, non-compliances and organizational hazards. Combining these with new approaches such as behavior-based safety and other predictive analysis, you can use trends and data from previous incidents to prevent new ones.

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3. Leadership mindset change

The shift in company culture results in true safety leadership, where safety is a priority over production or profit. This is an environment that encourages openness—rather than rewarding zero incidents (which may deter employees from reporting or employers from documenting incidents), they reward the accurate reporting and correcting of unsafe conditions or incidents. These types of environments see safety as a strategic investment rather than a burdensome cost.



What Do You Think?

Many companies and organizations do not feel that releasing injury reports to the public is wise. They feel that this “name and shame” mentality will actually hurt the reputation of companies who work hard to provide a safe workplace. This information could also be used by competitors and may have the unintended effect of actually disincentivizing proper reporting of injuries. This is certainly an argument that could be made. What do you think? Email us your opinion and we may share (anonymously) in some of our upcoming newsletters.

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Companies spend more on musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) than any other medical condition, according to a new report from the Northeast Business Group on Health. A 2016 study from the US Bone and Joint Initiative found that half of Americans suffer from MSDs – which means it’s likely some of your employees do too. So how can you help them? Tactics to help workplaces curtail the prevalence of MSDs include:

- onsite ergonomics training
- workplace redesigns using joint-friendly furniture
- active workstations, and
- online courses on the issue.

Ergonomic programs that blend well with other wellness offerings can significantly cut down on MSDs – without breaking the bank. For treatment, the report recommends:

- direct access to physical therapy through bypassing physician referrals
- evidence-based at-home treatments like RICE (rest, ice, compression, elevation), and
- inexpensive over-the-counter medication.

For more information on cost-effective and preventative solutions for ergonomic injuries in workplace, take our on-line Workplace Ergonomic Specialist course. For the month of November, you can order this course at a 50% discount for only \$195. Click [here](#) to order now and use the coupon code “ERGO2017” at the checkout to save!



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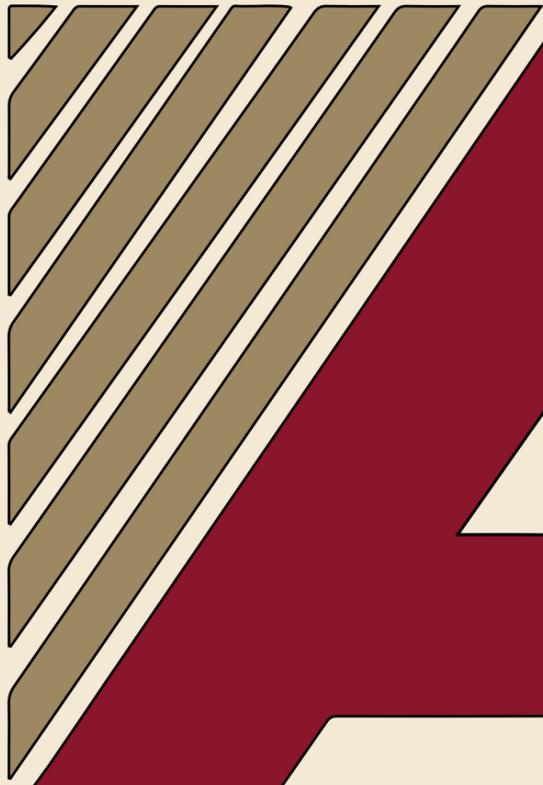
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