

USW 12-591 Fallen Workers Scholarship Response

Working in an environment where anything can happen at any time can cause fear to rise in employees, so having a set of clear instructions on what to do is crucial.

OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) has a specific statute on emergency planning and response. It is not only important that the employees know of the safety measures but also what to do in an emergency.

All portions of PSM are important, all worksites should take employee safety seriously, and having a set plan that shows new or old employees what to do in case of an emergency is essential. Workers should not only know what to do in an emergency but also be confident in the procedure given to them. There are five phases of emergency preparation: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery (University of Nevada, Reno). Companies should have a list of things workers can do to prevent hazards as well as what causes them. Not only is the prevention portion important, but the response portion is far more important. A clear and well-communicated response plan can and will save lives. If employees understand the emergency response plan, it improves the worksite safety and helps to mitigate risks and damages in an actual emergency. This also allows for less confusion, panic, and potential employee harm.

Not only is a clear and structured plan important, but training employees on what to do in emergencies is also essential for maximum safety. An employee might understand what to do in an emergency but when it comes to a real situation, the

employee might draw a blank on the emergency plan in place. There should be action plans and training for every potential type of emergency so that employees are familiar with the different response plans. Emergency response plans should be regularly reviewed and updated to account for any new hazards or changes in the worksite so that there is never a situation where someone is confused or in harm's way.

Having emergency drills with which the employees can practice is imperative. Drills would allow employees to practice the plan that is in place. It also allows employees to have confidence and practice for all types of emergency drills. Completing emergency drills would allow the company to see both its strengths and weaknesses, hence allowing companies to make improvements to create effective drills.

Lastly, sites should have established communication programs where they can contact both within the organization and external emergency response agencies. Communication channels would ensure both everyone's safety and a fast response from emergency services. In addition, communication channels would help with the distribution of information to employees about the evolving situation, other potential hazards, and the actions taking place. The channels allow employees to make informed decisions and allow for appropriate responses to be made.

Overall, a clear and structured plan, along with employee training and regular drills, greatly enhances worksite safety during emergencies and strengthens employee confidence in emergencies. Regular revision of emergency plans and updating plans ensures that they are always up to date and effective. Ultimately the goal is to prioritize employee safety and minimize both confusion during emergencies and possible injuries.

Works Cited

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