

## **EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Staff will learn emergency action plan regulatory requirements
- Staff will learn the organization's emergency plan procedures
- Staff will conduct a second emergency drill

In prior weeks we learned that emergency action plans (EAP) are required by OSHA establishing instructional procedures for the different types of emergencies likely to occur at work. Emergencies include, but are not limited to fires, bomb threats, civil disturbances, and medical emergencies. The plan describes procedures employees should take for each type of emergency and outline the evacuation procedures when evacuation is required.

If history has taught us anything, it has taught us that in today's society, every employer should plan and be prepared to handle workplace emergencies. In New Mexico, workplace emergencies have included catastrophic medical incidents, chemical releases, earthquakes, tornados, major fires, and episodes of crime and violence, e.g., employee shootings. Examples include:

- Hamlet North Carolina - The Imperial Chicken Plant had inadequate emergency plans. In 1991, a fire killed 25 employees, injured 49 employees; the building was a total loss.
- Postal Service shootings and subsequent copycats- Since 1986, 40 postal service employees have been killed by co-workers. The phenomena "Going Postal" has been copied in virtually every industry, including government.
- 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing- Timothy McVey detonated a bomb at the Murrah Federal Building killing 168 people.
- 9-11 (World Trade Center & Pentagon)- Over 3,000 people killed
- 1,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest a day
- August 17 & 18, 2005, Albuquerque- John Hyde killed a Department of Transportation employee, two motor cycle shop employees and two Albuquerque police officers.

### **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

- *Revisit the organization's emergency action plan and procedures. Ensure that all employees understand their responsibility.*

### **CLOSING**

- *Upon Completion of the presentation, conduct and document a second emergency drill, including an evacuation. This drill will ensure compliance with OSHA EAP requirements; notwithstanding that some specialized departments may have other EAP requirements.*