



023: Emergency Response

Fires

You can extinguish small fires with a class C fire extinguisher. Do not use a water-charged extinguisher around electrical gear or fuel. Look for a pillar with a red band or other red marking to locate a nearby fire extinguisher.

If the fire is too large or too smoky, or the smoke is acrid, do not attempt to fight the fire. Use the extinguisher to aid your escape. You can use it to sweep a hole through a barrier of fire, bash a window or door open, or push smoke out of your way. Stay low to the ground when escaping. Most fire-related fatalities are from smoke inhalation. How low you should be depends on how much smoke there is. You want to keep your head below the smoke, if possible.

If an extinguisher is charged, do not use it as a battering tool. When using an extinguisher to bash, say, a door, aim the top of the extinguisher so the valve and regulator point away from your head and body.

Do not use a fire hose unless you are trained and part of a team. Improper use can easily result in decapitation or electrocution.

If escaping a fire, report to your assembly area so your foreman knows where you are. You do not want a rescue attempt undertaken for a person who is not already safely outside the danger area.

Weather and other natural disasters

In the case of hurricanes, high winds, tornadoes, or earthquakes, report to the designated assembly area. If there isn't one designated, go inside for hurricanes or tornadoes and stay away from windows. For earthquakes, go outside and stand away from buildings.

In the event of a flood, de-energize at the main panel as the water approaches. Then, get to high ground. If flood water is already at the main panel, leave it.

Do not attempt to cross a flood area with any moving current, whether on foot or in a vehicle.

Bomb Threats

Always assume a bomb threat is valid. Follow the evacuation directions announced over the over the PA system.

If you get a phone call announcing a bomb, write down as much information as possible, and notify your foreman immediately.

Terrorists

In this post-September 11 era, the rule is "fight back." Do not count on terrorists to release you safely. Anything can be a weapon—rigid metal conduit is an example.

If you suspect terrorist activities, report your observations to your foreman.

Trapping

It is possible for someone to be trapped under debris from a lift truck accident, excavation collapse, or other disturbance. Stay calm, even if this happens.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Obtain a map of the site's emergency exits and assembly areas. Provide a copy for each crew member.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Some things to keep in mind when an emergency arises.

Discussion notes :

