

## Tool Box Talk Emergency Planning for Construction Sites

February 21st, 2023

As creatures of habit, we often do things "routinely" without thinking about them. Remember your routine this morning? Did you go through the motions without much thought? On the jobsite, do you take the same path "automatically?" This is not necessarily wrong, because your routines often save time and energy. But when it comes to emergency situations involving escape and evacuation, people tend to use the most familiar route too. Sometimes that route may not be the best way to escape.

To ensure your safety and well-being, it is important to prepare carefully for emergencies. In the ever-changing construction environment, this is particularly important. Construction sites are continuously faced with changes in the physical layout, changes in emergency devices available and in harmful exposures. Careful pre-planning of emergency procedures, prior to the start of a project and during changes in different construction phases, must be done and all crew members must be aware of these procedures.

The following steps are important components of an emergency action plan:

- 1. Get to know the entire layout of the site, building or structure. Identify all the emergency exits, emergency equipment (i.e., fire extinguishers, eye wash stations/showers, first aid and AED equipment, etc.) Make sure you also know the location of rally points or marshalling areas.
- 2. Analyze potential emergency situations at your jobsite. Will the hazards change regularly or gradually stay the same over a period of time? I believe and practice a state of hypervigilance to continuously monitor the situations I am in.
- 3. Know who has responsibility during emergencies. Who is assigned to contact emergency personnel, who is allowed to talk to the media, (FYI, the only HBI personnel allowed to talk to the media are Greg Zevely & Chris Jenkins)
- 4. Practice the emergency procedures to ensure their effectiveness.
- 5. Remember that emergency procedures must be updated whenever there is a change in the operation, hazardous exposures, physical layout or if new employees are working in the location. Our weekly safety meetings are a great time for review.

## Remember This!

The last thing you want to think about during an emergency is how to evacuate or escape--especially if your most familiar route is not accessible. Knowing the emergency plan and being aware of surrounding conditions can mean the difference between quick action and the wrong action. Your safety and the survival of all crew members depends on taking the right action!



## Tool Box Talk/Safety Meeting Sign In Sheet

Energy Efficiency Specialists™

Email to <a href="mailto:chris@hudsonbayins.com">chris@hudsonbayins.com</a> or <a href="mailto:safety@hudsonbayins.com">safety@hudsonbayins.com</a> or <a href="mailto:safety@hudsonbayins.com">safety@hudsonbayins.com</a> or <a href="mailto:safety@hudsonbayins.com">safety@hudsonbayins.com</a> or <a href="mailto:safety@hudsonbayins.com">safety@hudsonbayins.com</a> or <a href="mailto:text">to (206) 730-6273</a>

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