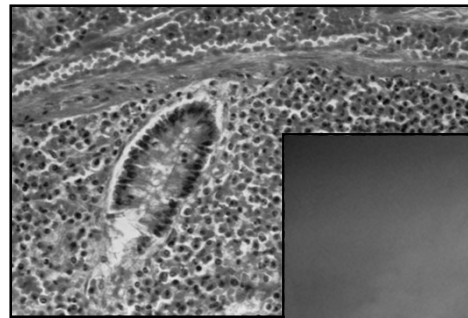


# Disaster Preparedness

# Types of Disasters

- Most of the disasters you will face fall under one of two categories:
  - Natural Disasters
    - Fires, earthquakes, floods, tornados, and hurricanes
  - Terrorist Threats
    - Biological attacks, chemical attacks, nuclear explosions, and radiation threats (“dirty bombs”)



# Natural Disasters

- Employers are responsible for researching the natural disasters that are most prevalent in their area of work and planning accordingly.
- The workplace should have an established emergency escape plan, and all employees should be aware of their specific roles in the plan. This includes understanding any specific medical or supervisory responsibilities. The use of floor plans or workplace maps, which clearly show the emergency escape routes, should be included in the emergency action plan.

# Terrorist Threats

- **Biological Attack** - The deliberate release of germs or other biological substances into the air or water. Many agents must be inhaled; enter through a cut in the skin; or be eaten to be effective.
- **Chemical Attack** - The deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison people and the environment.
- **Nuclear Explosion** - An explosion with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave, and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water, and ground surfaces for miles around the explosion site.
- **Dirty Bomb** - The use of common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area.

# Emergency Supplies

Basic emergency supplies to keep in your workplace include:

- One gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation



# Preparing for Disasters

You, as well as your employer, should plan in advance what you will do in an emergency.

- Be prepared to assess the situation—use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and others around you.
- Ask your employer about your workplace emergency plans.
- Find out how your employer will communicate with employees during an emergency.
- If your employer does not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one.

# Preparing for Disasters



- Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and available information, including what you are learning here, to determine if there is immediate danger.
- Watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet often for information or official instructions as they become available. If you're specifically told to evacuate or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

# Preparing for Disasters

Exit routes are the main component of an evacuation plan and are defined as a continuous and unobstructed path of exit travel from any point within a workplace to a place of safety (including refuge areas). It consists of three parts: The exit access; the exit; and the exit discharge. An exit route also includes all vertical and horizontal areas along the route.



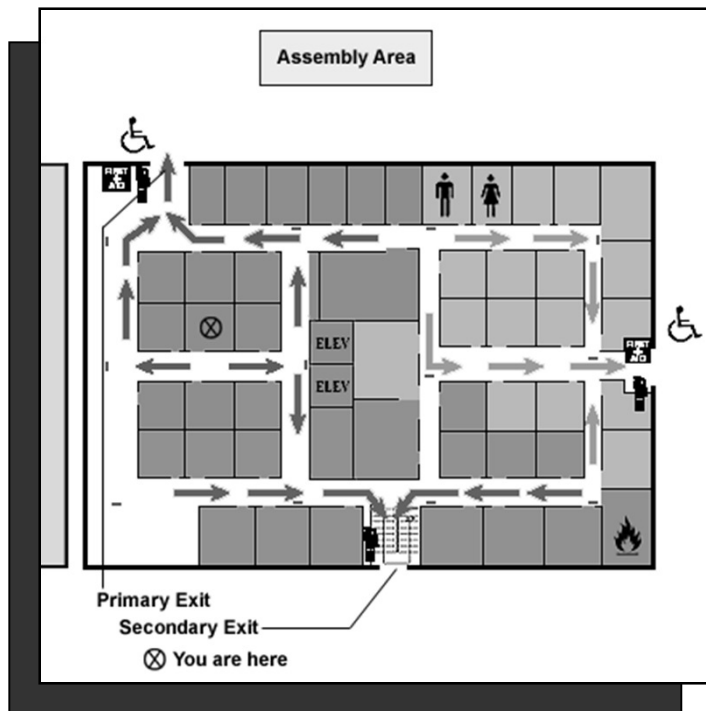


# Preparing for Disaster

OSHA exit route requirements include:

- Exits must be permanent.
- The number of exit routes must be adequate.
- An exit should have limited openings.
- Exits must be separated from the rest of the structure by fire resistant materials.
- Exit route access must be unobstructed and free of material and equipment.
- Exits must lead outside.
- An exit door must be unlocked and should not be accessed through a room that can be locked.
- A side-hinged exit door must be used.
- The capacity of an exit route must be adequate.
- Exits must meet minimum height and width requirements.
- An outdoor exit route is permitted.

# Preparing for Disasters



- The number of routes is dependent on the amount of employees. Generally, two exit routes, remote from each other, must be available to employees.
- Exits must lead directly outside to a street, walkway, refuge area, or to an open space with access to the outside. All of these areas must be large enough to accommodate all building occupants likely to use the exit.

# Preparing for Disasters

The requirements for operation and maintenance of exits and exit routes are as follows:

- The danger to employees must be minimized
- Lighting must be adequate
- Exits must be properly marked
- The fire retardant properties of paints or other coatings must be maintained
- Each emergency safeguard must be maintained
- Exits must be maintained during construction and repair
- An employee alarm system must be operable