

COMPLIANCE CONNECTION

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A bimonthly newsletter designed to help you navigate the ins and outs of compliance and the safe practice of industrial refrigeration.

Emergency Drills, Evacuation Points & Weather all Factor into Employee Safety

By Tyler Keys

It's that time of year again, and for some of us, the weather is truly frightful. The morning routine can be the hardest of tasks. The mere act of stepping from the warm confines of your favorite comforter can make you question this whole adulthood thing. If getting out of bed doesn't make you completely downtrodden, then the trek out to defrost your car will do the trick. Those first few minutes spent shivering and cursing at the windshield make every day feel like a Monday. Despite the weather and our reluctance to face it, we must continue to be vigilant because we work around chemicals; and we have others around us who may not be as aware.

In my travels I often hear folks discuss emergency evacuation points, and they usually reference these when we talk about where to send their fellow employees. This is always reassuring, particularly when they talk about their most recent practice drill. During our conversations, I generally follow up with a simple question, "Have you practiced sheltering-in-place?" I ask because I have found this to be a weak point in many of our emergency response plans and drills.

It is good practice to inform our employees of the differences between a fire or weather drill as opposed to a chemical situation. Incident commanders and managers should practice using all of the indicators and tools they have to make an informed decision on how to proceed in an emergency. In many scenarios, we find our best option is, in fact, to shelter-in-place. Facility managers should know the location of the air handler and if they have the ability to close it off in a chemical event. Additionally, it is important to know if all of their employees can fit in one room during their busiest shift.

Of great importance as well, incident commanders should be aware of how different chemicals react in winter months where the temperature is much colder. Also in winter months, there may be a need to send the employees outside in an event. It is important to make plans for mass transport to a warm and safe zone if this is the case.

Finally, it is essential that management has quick access to their ERP and a good understanding of this document. This could mean the difference between success and failure. It's not only important for employees to know how to respond in an emergency, but also for the leaders to step up and keep their people safe.

Practicing a variety of drills, implementing various scenarios and knowing when to evacuate and when to shelter-in-place are of utmost importance in being prepared in an emergency. But good leadership is a key element as well. Both pieces of the puzzle are essential to help you and your employees stay safe.

We at Industrial Consultants hope you have the nicest of holidays and stay warm this season. And if the climate becomes too unbearable, don't forget about the comfy confines of your HAZMAT suit!

Training Calendar

For more information about available training and classes, visit www.ammonia.com

JANUARY 2019

WARRENVILLE, IL

- Jan. 22-24 24-Hour Emergency Response
Jan. 22-25 32-Hour Level 1 Refrigeration Operator
Jan. 24 8-Hour ERT Refresher
Jan. 25 8-Hour Incident Commander Training
Jan. 25 8-Hour ERT Refresher

FEBRUARY 2019

FT. WAYNE, IN

- Feb. 4-6 24-Hour Emergency Response
Feb. 7 8-Hour ERT Refresher
Feb. 8 8-Hour ERT Refresher
PLYMOUTH, MN
Feb. 12-14 24-Hour Emergency Response
Feb. 14 8-Hour ERT Refresher
Feb. 15 8-Hour ERT Refresher

MARCH 2019

KULPSVILL, PA

- March 26-28 24-Hour Emergency Response
March 27 8-Hour ERT Refresher
March 28 8-Hour ERT Refresher



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