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## TOP 5 WAYS CORPORATIONS ARE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

# & HOW TO IMPLEMENT THEM

### 1. HAVE A DETAILED EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Companies who are successful in their response to emergency incidents have a detailed Emergency Response Plan with dedicated roles and responsibilities assigned to employees who are a part of mitigating emergency incidents. This can range from volunteer employee Emergency Response team members, to security, facilities and EH&S personnel. The plan specifically identifies what actions should be taken and by whom during various emergency incidents.

### 2. HAVE A WELL TRAINED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

A key factor in having a more successful outcome to emergency incidents is a well-trained and developed Emergency Response team. These individuals are commonly employees who have volunteered to attend training and respond during emergency incidents in their workplace. Having a trained emergency response team can often ensure quicker medical treatment for ill or injured employees and visitors, a more thorough and quick sweep of buildings during emergency evacuations and response to hazardous materials spills and leaks with proper training.

### 3. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

It is extremely beneficial to have an Emergency Response Plan and a trained Emergency Response Team. Successful corporations test these plans and training by conducting simulated drills. This includes annual emergency evacuation drills but also includes simulated medical response drills, multi-casualty disaster drills and response to hazardous materials spill and leaks. True success is in finding the weak areas of response and modifying plans and training to correct any deficiencies.

### 4. SUPPORT FROM UPPER MANAGEMENT

Buy in and support from upper management is a critical element in every successful workplace program. If management, including internal and external stakeholders, supports the efforts of an emergency response and mitigation program, it becomes a part of the workplace culture. This is a valuable tool when recruiting employee volunteers in being a part of an emergency response program.

### 5. RECOGNIZE YOUR EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS

Recognition... Employees who volunteer to be a part of a workplace emergency response team are just that, volunteers. Many join the team because the training provides them skills to use not just in the workplace, but skills they take home to their families, friends, neighbors and community. Learning CPR and First Aid or Fire Safety and Extinguisher use are skills not only for the workplace but everyday life. These volunteers deserve recognition. Many companies have specially designed Emergency Response Team t-shirts, hats, vests, jackets, backpacks and other "SWAG" to identify those on the team. Some companies have individual ERT signs for members doors and cubicles as well as ERT "Wall of Fame" posters identifying those employees who are team members. Recognition can go a long way in encouraging participation and a team mentality for emergency response programs.