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Efficient, Safe Evacuation an Ultimate Fire Safety Goal

Leadership from Upper Management Key for Implementation

Have you done a risk assessment of your facility for emergency preparedness? Emergency preparedness, disaster planning, crisis management, call it what you will – it all points to one thing within an organization, and that is the level of risk management preparedness. That is the staff and tenants' preparedness and knowledge of all fire and life safety procedures.

Tenants need to know what their evacuation procedures are; staff need to know the fire alarm systems and all related equipment. A detailed fire safety plan for the facility is a guide for both

practice sessions and real emergencies.

Effective emergency planning can reduce damage to the building and/or equipment, thus allowing the company to recover more quickly. It will also assist in compliance with health and safety related regulatory requirements and help to show the organization's due diligence, which may reduce exposure to civil or criminal liability in the event of an incident. A sincere image of the organization's concern about its employees and tenants will be conveyed. The ultimate accomplishment is knowing that everyone got out safely with no loss of lives.

DEVELOPING THE PLAN

Fire planning is a critical first step. Support from upper management is necessary to establish training, set up the fire drills and arrange the regular maintenance of the building safety features and fire equipment. Building owners and managers are responsible for ensuring public safety within their buildings in response to all types of risks and occurrences.

Fire emergency management is the process of preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any unplanned events that could have a negative effect