## Fire safety

## Buildings under construction or renovation require an evacuation plan

The constructor, general contractor, or project manager should develop and implement a fire safety evacuation plan before work starts. The plan should be in writing and distributed to all workers and subtrades on the project, including site visitors.

- a) Document and post the name and phone numbers of all personnel responsible for managing the fire safety evacuation plan, including after-hours contact information.
- Post emergency evacuation procedures, including warnings not to use elevators when a fire alarm sounds.

- Post floor plans identifying means of egress, exit stairwells, portable fire extinguishers, fire-hose stations, and the outside assembly area.
- d) Appoint fire warden(s) to ensure that everyone evacuates work areas when a fire alarm is activated.
- e) Post contact information for the security company that oversees "hot work" requirements as part of the fire code. Ensure that all construction employees are made aware of "hot work" requirements.
- f) Where other portions of a building remain occupied

- during construction or renovation, ensure that those other portions have an evacuation plan and that yours aligns with it.
- g) Include notice and awareness of the evacuation plan in all meetings with project management, workers, foremen, subcontractors, suppliers, and others who may be on site.
- h) Hold fire drills using the existing alarm system or an alternative such as compressed air horns, shouts of 'fire,' etc. Conduct a post-mortem on response, performance, and awareness of personnel.
- When work is to be done on alarm or sprinkler systems, the sections involved must be isolated and the remainder of the system kept in service. When it is necessary to shut down an entire alarm or sprinkler system, implement and enforce a 24-hour fire watch until the system is returned to full service. Post notices to this effect, including the order to call 911 immediately in the event of fire.

