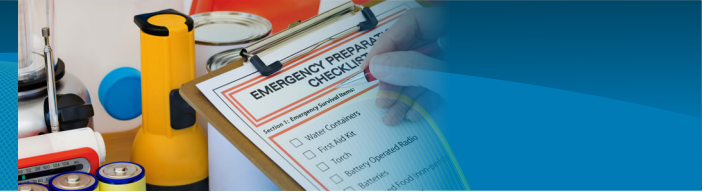


# Safety Facts: Emergency Preparedness\*



Fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and power outages — whatever the emergency is — it can happen without warning. Emergency preparedness ensures that when an emergency strikes, you have a plan ready to go, and are not scrambling last minute to get all your resources in order. An emergency preparedness and response plan is a document which outlines the procedures on what to do in the event of an emergency, with the end goal of protecting the health and safety of all the workers involved.

## Why is it important?

During an emergency, such as an earthquake, there will be confusion and displacement. Decisions need to be taken almost immediately on how to proceed. There may also be reduced access to emergency services. All these factors can make the difference between life and death.

Emergency preparedness ensures that all applicable resources are in place and ready to go when an emergency takes place. With emergency preparedness, you are able to assess all potential emergencies that can affect your workplace, and ensure you are prepared accordingly. In an emergency your response must be an organized effort, and this can only happen if there is prior planning.

## Key characteristics of emergency preparedness

There are four elements of **emergency management**:

- **Mitigation** Reduce hazards or its impact
- **Preparedness** Prepare for likely hazards
- **Response** Respond to an emergency or disaster
- **Recovery** Restore the workplace to pre-emergency condition

## Associated risks

A lack of emergency preparedness can result in:

- Worker injury/worker death
- Property loss
- Business loss
- Loss of reputation
- Harm to nearby businesses
- Harm to the public
- Environmental damage

## Preventative next steps

Review your current Emergency Preparedness Plan, consider some of the following questions and see how they can apply in your workplace:

- Does the plan consider all scenarios for an emergency?  
Review the risk assessment
- Have emergency drills been carried out annually at a minimum?
- Does everyone know where the muster point is located?
- Is there an inventory of hazardous substances which can be accessed in the event of an emergency?
- Are there procedures to notify adjacent businesses in the event of an emergency?
- Are there procedures for re-entry, after evacuation takes place?
- Are there adequate first aid resources when responding to an emergency?



**For additional resources visit:**

Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC: [safetyalliancebc.ca](http://safetyalliancebc.ca)

