

## Emergency Evacuation Planning

### ALL VICTORIAN CONSTRUCTION SITES MUST HAVE:



#### 1. An Emergency Response Plan

This must provide for the following:

- (a) site specific emergency procedures, including—
  - i. providing an effective response to an emergency
  - ii. evacuation procedures
  - iii. notifying emergency service organisations at the earliest opportunity
  - iv. medical treatment and assistance
  - v. effective communication between the person authorised by the person conducting the business or undertaking to coordinate the emergency response and all persons at the workplace

- (b) testing of the emergency procedures, including the frequency of testing
- (c) information, training and instruction to all workers in relation to implementing the emergency procedures and any particular responsibilities and areas of control that may have been allocated to them.

#### Important points

- Does the emergency plan reflect multiple mustering points should access to the primary mustering point be unavailable due to an unforeseen event (fire, gas leak, structure collapse)? AS 3745-2010 Section 4.2.6.5
- Does the emergency plan consider the likely effect a particular emergency may have on evacuation routes and normal paths for leaving work-areas (i.e. more than one way to access/egress work areas)? AS 3745 - 2010 Section 4.2.6.4
- Have workers and their OHS representatives been fully consulted on the development and implementation of the emergency evacuation plan? (OHS Act 2004 Section 35&36)
- Does the emergency plan identify secondary emergency wardens to take charge should the primary wardens be away or affected? (AS 3745 Section 5.2)

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All the requirements set out in this alert are consistent with and compliant to the following documentation under the Victorian OHS Legislative Framework: OHS Act (2004) Victoria; AS 4801 - 2000: OHS Management Systems; AS 3745 - 2010: Planning for Emergencies; AS 4655 2005 - Fire Safety Audits; AS 2550.1 - 2002 Cranes, Hoists and winches - safe use Part 1 General requirements; WorkSafe Victoria Alert: Effective Emergency Response Plans (March 2011); WorkSafe Victoria Information Sheet: Evacuation Lighting on Construction Sites (October 2012); Building Code of Australia.

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- Does the emergency plan take into account any 'afterhours' procedure/s?
- Does the emergency plan include checking of all areas to determine all people have been evacuated? (AS3745 Section 4.2.6.1)
- Does the emergency plan identify an appropriate location from which the chief warden can establish control, communication and coordination, and liaise with the appropriate emergency services? (AS3745 Section 4.2.4.)
- What is the process of accountability at multiple mustering points to ensure all persons are accounted for? (OHS Act 2004)

## 2. Fire Safety Plan

- Is there a fire safety plan? (AS3745 2010)
- Is there a fire warden structure on site? (AS 3745 2010)
- Has the fire safety plan been audited? (AS4655 2005)
- Is there at least one fire extinguisher to suit Class A, B and C fires and electrical fires on each storey adjacent to each exit or temporary stairway or exit? (Building Code of Australia 2013 E. 1.9)

### Important points

After a building has reached an effective height of 12m:

- (i) The required fire hydrants and fire hose reels **MUST** be operational in at least every storey that is covered by the roof or the floor structure above, except the two upper most storeys, and
- (ii) Any required booster connections **MUST** be installed. (Building Code of Australia 2013 E. 1.9)

## 3. Emergency Evacuation from Tower Cranes (AS 2550.1 Clause 6.8.2)

- Has there been an emergency evacuation plan formulated for the crane driver in consultation with the crane crew?
- What procedures have been developed in the event of incident or injury to the crane driver?
- What emergency evacuation training and instruction has been provided to the crane crew, and has it been tested for effectiveness?



Fire at Sydney's largest building site, Barangaroo, on 12 March, 2014. Unfortunately evacuation procedures left a lot to be desired with over 100 workers unaccounted for hours after the alarm.