

TST #125-A

Preparing for Emergencies

While we never expect them to occur, we all need to be prepared for emergencies. Emergencies are seldom anticipated but present us with a situation where quick thinking and appropriate actions are necessary. Are you prepared to handle emergency situations that can occur on a job site?

Preparation and review of the procedures is key in managing emergencies. Have you considered how or when you will need to contact the office or emergency rescue personnel? Even if you have the procedures written down, you most likely will not have time to read the emergency action plan before you are needed to act. Have you considered how you will need to respond? Who will you need to contact and how? Following are a few items that should be considered.

Each truck should have a first aid kit. If emergency medical services are not capable of reaching you in a reasonable amount of time, you should instruct crews to use their first aid responder training. Emergency phone numbers must be posted for the geographical area where the job site is located. Depending on the location of the site, it may not be 911. If this is the case, site personnel should have the local police and fire department direct emergency telephone numbers posted. If they are not posted, ask for them.

Assuming you have the right telephone numbers, how will you call for help? Do you have a cell phone or radio? How will you contact emergency crews if your cell phone is dead or if the reception is poor? Can you give detailed instructions to assist emergency services in getting to the job site quickly? If you are in a remote area, emergency vehicles could drive right by you.

In an emergency, how you respond plays an important role in the outcome. Waiting for someone to drive to the job site to determine what should be done next may be less than ideal. Survey the emergency equipment you take to the job site. This should include a first aid kit, fire extinguishers, emergency phone number sign and a cell phone. Is your first aid kit adequately stocked? What about a fully charged fire extinguisher? Where are the emergency contact numbers posted? What is the company policy on emergency response? If you are unsure on any of these points, ask questions. Remember that every second counts.

Know your company policy in case you or the people working with you are involved in any type of accident. Many companies require persons involved in any kind of accident to undergo a post-accident drug screen within 8 hours of the accident

Preparing for Emergencies Quiz

The following statements should be answered with “True” or “False.” Answers below.

1. Preparing for emergencies in advance is not necessary. You will always have time to review emergency policies.
2. All trucks should have fully stocked first aid kits and fully charged fire extinguishers.
3. There is no need for emergency phone numbers on jobsites, as 911 is always available.
4. Knowing your exact location—address and specific driving directions—is important to know so that this information can be provided to emergency responders.
5. Being prepared for an emergency includes surveying every site for exits, paying close attention to surroundings and maintaining a calm demeanor.

Employee Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Answers:

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True