



Emergency! Are you prepared?

Preparing for natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and other catastrophic events is the primary reason in which September has been designated as **National Preparedness Month**. National Preparedness Month also focuses on general workplace emergency preparedness. Whether it's a big catastrophe that affects the whole community, or a fire, chemical spill, or other emergency that just affects our workplace, you need to be prepared for difficult situations.

In the community:

- Become familiar with your community's emergency evacuation plan.
- Find out about emergency plans in the schools your children attend.
- Develop a family emergency plan for evacuating and for sheltering in place.
- Prepare an emergency kit and renew supplies as necessary.
- Conduct family emergency drills.

At work:

- Make sure you know the assigned evacuation route from your work area.
- Have an alternate route in case your primary route is blocked by fire, smoke, or other hazardous conditions.



Be Fire Smart

What does it take to start a workplace fire? Surprisingly little. First, you need some oxygen. Then you need some kind of fuel; there's a lot of that in the form of paper, cardboard, wood, cloth, flammable and combustible liquids, and other materials that burn easily. Finally, you need an ignition source like a spark, a flame, heat, or electricity. What is the final ingredient for a workplace fire? Carelessness.

Here's an example scenario:

A leaking chemical container releases flammable vapors that are heavier than air, and so they sink to floor level and travel across the work area to where a worker is using a metal tool that creates a spark. The spark ignites the vapors, which burn rapidly. If there are enough vapors or if the fire makes it back to the container of flammable liquid, there could be an explosion.

All the elements of a fire existed here: oxygen, fuel, and ignition source plus the added ingredient of carelessness. The worker should have been using non-sparking tools in an area where flammable liquids were present, and someone should have inspected the container, found the leak, and reported it.

Here's another example:

There's a pile of cardboard and paper trash out on the loading dock. A worker sneaking a smoke fails to completely extinguish the cigarette before tossing the butt into the pile of trash. It takes a while, but eventually the trash bursts into flames. If the fire goes unnoticed for long, it could easily spread.

Again, all the elements for starting a fire were there, including carelessness.

Look around your work area. Is there fuel to start a fire? Are there ignition sources? Are you being careful and making sure that the fuel and the ignition sources don't come together to start a fire?



YCPARMIA Safety Journal

Yolo County Public Agency Risk Management Insurance Authority

Be Safe On The Road

Regular vehicle inspections contribute greatly to your safety on the road.

Here's what to look for:

In the trunk

- ⊕ Spare tire, jack, and tire-changing tools
- ⊕ Flashlight
- ⊕ First-aid kit
- ⊕ Flares
- ⊕ Repair tools
- ⊕ One quart of oil
- ⊕ Jumper cables

Outside and in

- ⊕ Tires
- ⊕ Lights
- ⊕ Vehicle exterior
- ⊕ Oil or coolant leaks under the vehicle
- ⊕ Anything behind or under the vehicle
- ⊕ Instrument panel
- ⊕ Test your breaks before you drive away

Under the hood

- ⊕ Oil level
- ⊕ Power steering fluid level
- ⊕ Windshield washer level
- ⊕ Coolant level
- ⊕ Hoses
- ⊕ Fan belt

Night Moves On The Road

When driving at night, take these extra precautions:

- Make sure mirrors, lights, and windshield are clean.
- Never wear sunglasses.
- Make sure head and tail lights are working properly.
- Turn on headlights as soon as it begins getting dark.
- Never use high beams if there is a car in front of you or coming towards you.
- Give your eyes a moment to adjust to the dark before you start driving.
- If headlights from an oncoming car make it difficult to see the road, focus on the right edge of the pavement.
- Reduce your speed. You should be able to stop in the distance your headlights provide.



Safety Suggestion Box

Report hazards anonymously! Go to our website at www.ycparmia.org, and click on the menu box entitled "Anonymous Safety Box". YCPARMIA forwards all submissions, exactly as written, to the appropriate entity's safety committee for their consideration and/or action.

