Emergency Evacuation Planning

ALL VICTORIAN CONSTRUCTION SITES MUST HAVE:

- (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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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 lot to be desired with over 100 workers unaccounted for hours after the alarm.