

Safety Topics

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Emergency Action Plans and Severe Weather

Emergency Action Plans (EAP)

How is your EAP?

The best Emergency Action Plans for any work place includes all possible emergency situations. For example, those who work in southwest Indiana and western Kentucky in the areas of the New Madrid Fault or Mount Carmel Fault may need to include earthquake emergencies in their plan.

Every location in **imi's** work area should be prepared in the event of a tornado or severe lightning or wind storms. All common events in our area of the United States.

Emergency Action Plans need to be reviewed with all employees and posted in a conspicuous place. A map showing the "safe place" for each emergency is another planning tool. It is important that all employees on site at the time of the emergency make sure that they report to the supervisor before leaving the site. Accounting for everyone after an emergency has struck is the first priority.

The layout of the facility dictates that each Emergency Action Plan is distinct. Consideration must be given to what your neighbors do. An emergency at their facility may impact our operations.

Your next safety meeting would be a good time to review your Emergency Action Plan. On-going training and review is the best assurance that no one will be hurt if the plan is used in an emergency. Practice makes perfect!

If you need help with your EAP, call Terry or me.

When Lightning Strikes

The Lightning Protection Institute suggests the following safety guidelines: **Indoors**

- Stand clear from windows, doors and electrical appliances.
- Unplug appliances well before a storm nears—never during.
- Avoid contact with piping including sinks, baths and faucets.
- Do not use the telephone except for emergencies.

Outdoors

Look for a shelter equipped with a lightning protection system like those found at golf courses, public parks and pools. If you are caught outside unprotected:

- Get in a hard topped car.
- Never use a tree as a shelter.
- Avoid areas that are higher than the surrounding landscape.
- Keep away from metal objects including bikes, golf carts, fencing, machinery, etc.
- Avoid standing near tall objects.
- Immediately get out and away from pools, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Spread out—do not stand in a crowd of people.
- If you feel a tingling sensation or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike! Immediately crouch down and cover your ears. Do not lie down or place your hands on the ground.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Emergency Action Plans
- Lightning Strikes.

For what it is Worth!

We'd all like a reputation for generosity, and we'd like it cheap. Is that possible?

The ideas for this Safety Topic were from the April issue of *Associated General Contractors of Indiana, Inc.—Safety Bulletin*. Check out the Lightning Protection Institute's web page at: www.lightning.org/safety.htm For tips on Tornado Safety visit the web page of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at: www.fema.gov/library/tornado.htm

