



Australian Government

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner



Emergency preparedness in practice

Safe Work Month 2025

When the unexpected happens, appropriate preparation can be key to preventing serious harm. Emergency preparedness is a core part of ensuring your team gets home safely, every day. As part of our 'prepared today, protected tomorrow' campaign for Safe Work Month 2025, we've collated examples of what accredited companies have been doing to uplift their emergency preparedness and management. This collection of examples, provided through Scheme Biannual Reports, provides insight into the breadth of initiatives being introduced by Scheme accredited builders.

The OFSC does not hold out these initiatives as recommendations of industry best practice, nor suggest these activities relate in any specific way to the FSC Audit Criteria.

Awareness raising and training

- Using short 'Lunch & Learn' sessions to raise awareness of key topics to reinforce important safety requirements, including first aid and emergency response procedures.
- Organising electrical subcontractors to provide expert advice on electrical safety, including sitewide demonstrations relating to electric shock emergencies.
- Providing emergency training using company rescue equipment.
- Making emergency training courses, such as level 2 first aid/CPR training, available to anyone who wishes to complete them.
- Increasing the number of team members provided with remote first aid training to improve flexibility, coverage and emergency preparedness.
- Providing high pressure gas pipeline emergency safety training to emergency services personnel.

Emergency communications

- Introducing an internal bulletin module that allows direct communication for emergency situations with all stakeholders at project and site levels through multiple mediums.
- Developing an in-house emergency communication tool that automatically collects contact information from all site workers and visitors, allowing sitewide broadcast of emergency text messages.
- Using the site induction app to also provide emergency site alerts.
- Collecting site attendance data via site induction for use in emergency evacuation roll call.

Investment in resources

- Purchasing a davit arm (crane-like anchor point) for emergency rescue scenarios.
- Introducing windsocks to dictate emergency assembly point locations during gas leak emergencies, to ensure assembly points were upwind of potential incidents. This also involved updating safe work method statements, emergency response plans and worker inductions.

Specific evacuation drills

- Builders simulated various scenario-based emergency drills to test project specific emergency risks, such as simulating trench collapses and fall arrest rescues.

System improvements

- Introducing emergency management cheat sheets, made up of coloured flip cards with basic details of what to do in emergencies.
- Developing standalone emergency management plans for each project, that focus on specific scenario-based emergencies and their responses.