



# VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO



# BUILDING EMERGENCY PLAN



Office of Emergency Management

# How to prepare an emergency response plan for your small business

Emergencies and disasters can occur any time without warning. The more you are prepared for them, the better you will be able to act, minimizing panic and confusion when an emergency occurs. Relatively speaking, small businesses may have more to lose than large companies when a disaster — natural or otherwise — strikes. Because of high costs or lack of resources, many smaller companies have less rigorous business-continuity plans in place, and some have no formal processes at all.

The purpose of this bulletin is to help employers develop emergency response plans that will meet the specific needs of their small businesses. Your plan should take into account the type of business you are in and the nature of your worksite.

Start by asking these basic questions:

- ✚ How well prepared is your business now?
- ✚ What procedures do you already have in place for an emergency situation?
- ✚ What potential emergency situations could occur?

## Basic guidelines

Follow these basic guidelines to develop an effective emergency response plan for your workplace:

- ✚ Determine the conditions under which an evacuation would be necessary.
- ✚ Designate primary and secondary evacuation routes and emergency exits. Make sure they are clearly marked and well lit. Post signs.
- ✚ Install emergency lighting in case a power outage.
- ✚ Ensure that evacuation routes and emergency exits are:
  - Wide enough to accommodate the number of

evacuating people

- Clear and unobstructed at all times
- Unlikely to expose evacuating people to additional hazards
- ✚ Coordinate your plan with the emergency management office.
- ✚ Designate “evacuation wardens” who will help others during an evacuation and account for employees.
- ✚ Establish specific evacuation procedures.
- ✚ Establish a system for evacuating employees.
- ✚ Hold emergency drills at least twice a year
- ✚ Test the effectiveness of emergency exit routes and procedures. Keep records of such drills.
- ✚ Post evacuation procedures where employees can read them.
- ✚ Establish procedures for assisting people with disabilities and people who do not speak English.
- ✚ Consider how you would access important personal information about employees in an emergency (for example, contact numbers for their home, next-of-kin, and medical care).

## Assembly areas and accountability

Following a site evacuation, you should gather employees and other evacuees at a designated assembly area and account for each person to make sure everyone has been evacuated safely.

Accounting for evacuees takes planning and practice. Follow these guidelines:

- ✚ Designate assembly areas where people should gather after evacuating.
- ✚ Establish a head-count system for employees at the assembly area
- ✚ Establish procedures for further evacuation in case the incident expands. This may consist of sending employees home by normal means or providing them with transportation to an off-site location
- ✚ Identify shelter space in the facility and in the community
- ✚ Establish procedures for evacuees to shelter.
- ✚ Have the necessary emergency supplies such as water, food, and medical supplies
- ✚ Coordinate plans with local police, fire and EMS

*Three Elements of Preparedness*  
 1. *Evacuation*  
 2. *Shelter in Place*  
 3. *Lock Down*

### Education and training

Educate your employees about the types of emergencies that may occur, and train them for the proper emergency situations. Make sure they understand:

- ✚ The components of your emergency response plan.
- ✚ Who will be in charge during an emergency

### What should employee training include?

Emergency response training for your employees should address the following:

- ✚ Individual roles and responsibilities
- ✚ Potential threats, hazards, and protective actions.
- ✚ Emergency response procedures
- ✚ Evacuation , shelter, and accountability procedures

### What emergency information is necessary?

- ✚ Provide employees with information such as checklists and evacuation maps the following:
- ✚ Post evacuation maps in strategic locations.
- ✚ Consider the information needs of customers and others who visit your store.

### How often should training take place?

You should conduct training sessions at least once a year, or whenever you:

- ✚ Hire new employees
- ✚ Designate evacuation wardens or others with special assignments.
- ✚ Find through drills and practice “improvement plans”

### Employee support

Employees are your most valuable asset. Providing support for them after an emergency will help them, which will in turn help your business continue to run as smoothly as possible. The range of services that you might provide or arrange for employees includes:

- ✚ Crisis counselling
- ✚ Flexible work hours
- ✚ Salary continuation
- ✚ Care packages
- ✚ Daycare

*Family preparedness*  
*Employees who are prepared for emergencies home are better able to carry out their responsibilities at work.*

# Sample emergency building response plan

**Company name:**

**Location:**

**Date completed:**

**Signed:**

## **Emergency contact numbers**

Fire station:

Ambulance:

Police:

Hospital:

Other:

## **Potential emergencies**

The following potential emergencies have been identified in hazard assessments:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **Location of emergency equipment**

Fire alarm:

Fire extinguisher:

Fire hose:

Panic alarm button:

Personal protective equipment (PPE):

Emergency communication equipment:

Other:

## **Training requirements for emergency response**

Type of training:

How often:

## **Employees trained in the use of emergency equipment**

The following employees have received emergency equipment training:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## **First aid**

Type of first aid kit:

Location of first aid kit:

Other supplies:

Transportation for ill or injured employees:

## **First aid attendant (employee trained in first aid)**

Name:

Location:

Shift or hours of work:

## **Communications**

We will communicate our emergency plans to employees in the following way:

In the event of a disaster, we will communicate with employees in the following way:

## **Procedures for rescue and evacuation**

Evacuation plan for \_\_\_\_\_ location

(address)

- We have developed these plans in collaboration with neighboring businesses and building owners to avoid confusion or gridlock.

- We have located, copied, and posted building and site maps.
- We have ensured that exits are clearly marked.
- We will practice evacuation procedures \_\_\_\_ times a year.
- If we must leave the workplace quickly, we will follow this evacuation procedure:

**Warning system:**

The warning system will be tested \_\_\_\_ times a year.

Assembly site:

Person responsible for issuing all clear:

**Shelter-in-place plan for \_\_\_\_\_ location**  
(address)

We have talked to co-workers about which emergency supplies, if any, the company will provide in the shelter location and which supplies individuals should consider keeping in a portable kit personalized for individual needs.

**Employee emergency contact information**

Employee Name	Contact person and number	Alternate contact person and number