Emergency Response

- Employers should establish effective safety and health programs and prepare workers to handle emergencies
  - Emergencies include:
  - accidental release of toxic gases
  - chemical spills
  - fires
  - explosions
  - workplace violence

Planning

- Emergency response plan should be developed locally and be site specific
- When plans are required by a particular OSHA standard, must be in writing for firms with more than 10 employees
- Plan must include, as a minimum, the following elements:
  - emergency escape procedures and escape route assignments
  - procedures to be followed by employees who remain to perform (or shut down) critical plant operations before evacuation
  - rescue and medical duties for employees who perform them
  - means for reporting fires and other emergencies
  - contacts for information about the plan

Emergency Response Teams

- Thoroughly trained for potential emergencies and physically capable of carrying out their duties
- Know about toxic, flammable and other special hazards in the workplace and be able to judge when to evacuate personnel or depend on outside help (e.g., fire too large to handle)
- Depending on size of plant, one or more teams must be trained in:
  - use of various types of fire extinguishers
  - first aid, including CPR
  - shutdown and evacuation procedures
  - chemical spill control procedures
  - use of SCBA
  - search and emergency rescue procedures
  - incipient and advanced stage firefighting
  - trauma counseling

Employee Training

- Details of emergency action plan, including evacuation plans, alarm systems, reporting procedures for personnel, shut down procedures, and types of potential emergencies
- Drills should be held at random intervals, at least annually, and include, if possible, outside police and fire authorities
- Training must be conducted initially, when new employees are hired, and at least annually
- Additional training needed when new equipment, materials, or processes are introduced, when procedures have been updated or revised, or when exercises show inadequate employee performance

Security

- Details of emergency action plan, including evacuation plans, alarm systems, reporting procedures for personnel, shut down procedures, and types of potential emergencies
- Drills should be held at random intervals, at least annually, and include, if possible, outside police and fire authorities
- Training must be conducted initially, when new employees are hired, and at least annually
- Additional training needed when new equipment, materials, or processes are introduced, when procedures have been updated or revised, or when exercises show inadequate employee performance