

Worksheet #			
1a	1b	2	3
<b>4a</b>	4b	5	

## Identify Hazards Associated with Emergencies and Nonroutine Situations

Plans and procedures need to be developed to respond to hazards from emergencies and nonroutine situations.

- Emergencies come with their own hazards and risks, depending on the materials, equipment, and location involved (Worksheet 4a).
- Tasks that are rare or aren't routine, including maintenance and startup/shutdown activities, also present potential hazards (Worksheet 4b).

### To-Do

- Identify emergencies that could affect your workplace.
- Identify hazards that might come up during emergency response.

### Identify potential emergencies

Emergencies disrupt your operations, cause damage, and/or threaten your workers, customers, and the public. They can be natural or human-caused. Examples include:

- Natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.)
- Building or facility fires
- Toxic gas releases
- Chemical spills
- Explosions
- Sustained power outages
- Civil disturbances
- Violence
- Medical and public health emergencies (such as pandemics)

Some OSHA standards address potential emergencies. For example, there are standards for businesses that deal with hazardous substances (such as [ethylene oxide](#), [methylenedianiline](#), or [butadiene](#)), or that need to follow procedures related to [hazardous chemicals](#), [hazardous waste](#), or [grain handling](#).

Think about hazards that could come up during an emergency. During a power outage, for example, operations could become unsafe. If people are evacuated because of extreme weather, they might be in danger outside.

**Expect the unexpected!** Starting with the questions below, ask workers to brainstorm potential emergencies. Think about the workplace overall as well as each area and operation. For example:

- What natural disasters could affect our workplace (such as a flood, wildfire, tornado, or earthquake)?
- What chemicals or materials do we use that could be spilled or released?
- Could a fire or explosion happen in our building?
- What situations do you face that could put you in harm's way (an angry customer, a robbery, etc.)?
- What other emergencies might come up?

### Pro Tip

See OSHA's [How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations](#) for guidance on how you can expect the unexpected and brainstorm worst-case scenarios to plan for.

After brainstorming emergencies that could affect your workplace, list the hazards that might come with them:

You will use this list to set priorities for control (Hazard Identification, Worksheet 5) and develop plans to minimize the potential harm to workers, the public, and the environment (Hazard Prevention and Control, Worksheet).