

Sample Scenarios for Emergency Drills

1. At the beginning of the day, the radio/TV alerts the staff that a snowstorm has begun in the county. Heavy snowfall has started, and blizzard-type conditions can be expected. The warning came when the facility was running full production. The facility has not had an interruption of water or power. Family members are very anxious about staying and driving in this weather. The roads are not being cleared, and it is getting worse as the day goes on. Transportation companies have pulled their vehicles, and several workers still need rides home. As you are near the end of the day, the power goes out in your half of the city.

2. The city water company informed the facility that a water line broke, causing water loss for the entire city. Repairs are underway, but the water is not expected to return until tomorrow. This is followed by a Boil Water Order for the area for the following 48 hours. The facility manager left for vacation, and the facility superintendent is attending an offsite business meeting with limited access to e-mail or phone.

3. While running a full shift, the facility's power failed. Assume that the facility either does not have a generator in place or the generator was unable to turn on and cover the power outage. The maintenance department just spoke with the power company about a disabled transformer. Power is not expected to resume for several hours. Two hours after the initial power outage, the maintenance department learned that power would not be restored for at least 24 hours due to mechanical problems with the main transformer.

4. During the day, the radio/TV alerts the staff that a tornado has been spotted, and the sirens are activated in your area. The warning came at a time when shifts changed at the facility. The facility has interrupted power, and all the cell towers were destroyed. You realized you forgot to plug in your cell phone last night. One of the managers had been called in sick that morning with the flu, so the facility is now short-staffed. While waiting in the protected area, you hear the storm arrive and leave with audible sounds of glass breaking. The radio reports that the tornado warning has passed. You receive notification that repairs are needed. How do you secure the building before leaving for the day? How do you communicate with employees?

5. Your facility receives an alert that the rising river waters in spring may cause flooding in your county. Your facility is distant from the river, and you were informed earlier that

the risk to your facility was not at all likely. While the city is taking measures, it may take longer to protect the facility. Flooding is expected within two weeks. The facility manager has been updated that flooding will likely occur. Flood waters are to arrive in about five days. On the 3rd day, the facility is informed that their building is being evacuated at Noon today due to flood waters coming this evening. What is the plan?

6. As a result of a severe thunderstorm that passed over the area. Lightning struck the east side of the building, instantly producing flames. The fire began when the facility was full of employees. Within 5 minutes, emergency services arrive to address the situation. Two hours after the emergency, the fire was put out, and damage to the facility was assessed. You are informed that the facility has been severely damaged, and operations are not continuing. The time until the anticipated reopening is one week. What is the plan?

7. Several strong thunderstorms have ripped through the county throughout the day, causing flooding in low-lying areas and minor power outages due to high winds. Heavy rain, harsh lighting, and small to golf ball-sized hail were reported. Now, downed power lines and debris have led the County sheriff to close roads. One of the closed roads is to your facility because a large tree knocked down a still-active power line. The electrical crew will take several hours to get to that power line.

8. At 0900, the fire alarms were activated because when a maintenance technician was working on a piece of equipment, a fire ignited and caused a minor explosion. The technician suffers burns across 40% of his body and has difficulty breathing. One employee within the vicinity of the fire suffered minor injuries. The first responders are on the scene and have extinguished the fire. There is still a lot of smoke in the facility. The local newspaper followed the first responders and are now on the scene.

9. The weather is unseasonably warm and humid. Temperatures are hovering around 87 degrees and 90% humidity. Without warning, power to the building is interrupted. Initial news reports indicated a large truck crashed into the city's main power plant, crippling several transformers and causing a broad power failure across a 45-mile area. The emergency generator tried to start up but without success. Several attempts are made, but the generators will not turn on. The building is without power. Daylight provides limited illumination, and the sun will begin to set within the next two hours. The building temperature rises, and employees, contractors, and visitors complain of the heat. You are experiencing mechanical difficulties due to equipment overheating. The refrigeration system is not working.

10. an earthquake of magnitude 5.4 lasted for 2 minutes. All phones (landlines and cellular) are jammed. Electricity is out in your city. Employees are concerned about their families and are attempting to contact schools/homes but cannot get through. Ceiling tiles, fixtures, and other building materials have fallen or come loose throughout the facility. The Department of Transportation strongly recommends that citizens not drive due to unsafe roadways. Who are the key partners you want to communicate your status and changes in operation to, and how?

11. Weather forecasters are predicting a significant change in the atmosphere that could increase the severity of hurricanes in the next few weeks. The very next week, you begin following a tropical storm with the projected path to hitting landfall by your facility. On Friday, the tropical storm becomes a hurricane as it hits landfall. High winds and water have downed power lines and a couple of cell phone towers. Employees and employees don't want to leave the facility. What is the plan?

12. You hear loud noises coming from the breakroom, then it registers that it was a gunshot when an employee runs past you yelling, "He has got a gun!". Employees feel fear, anxiety, and even initial disbelief. You initiate the RUN-HIDE-FIGHT procedures. Where do you go? Who do you take with you?

13. A son is upset because their mother's employment was terminated. Employees try to de-escalate the man, but he gets more aggressive. The Facility Manager tries to reason with the son. The son swings at the Facility Manager and hits him in the jaw. What do you do? What do you do with other employees? Then, after he hits the Facility Manager, he produces a knife from his pocket. You initiate the RUN-HIDE-FIGHT procedures. Where do you go? Who do you take with you?

14. A report states that a chemical release from a storage facility near you will require the evacuation of several hundred people. Law enforcement shows up at your facility and tells you it is in line with a hazardous chemical plume and that you must evacuate immediately. What is the plan?

15. The police call you, stating there is an armed and dangerous man in your area. The police are in the process of looking for him but want you to go into "lockdown" and report anything suspicious. People are coming in to seek shelter while the hunt continues, and the police tell them to get off the streets. What do you do? How do you get ahead of workers due to arrive in 10 minutes?