

September 1, 2009

Fire Drills

The warm weather will not be with us much longer, and what a great time it is to schedule your required fire drill! A fire drill is a method of practicing the evacuation of a building for a fire or other emergency. Generally, the emergency system (usually an alarm) is activated and the building is evacuated as though a real fire had occurred. Usually, the time it takes to evacuate is measured to ensure that it occurs within a reasonable length of time.

Knowing what to do is the key to surviving a fire emergency. Conducting regular fire drills will give you the knowledge and confidence to escape a fire safely. Conducting effective fire drills helps building owners, property management and others responsible for fire safety within a building to:



- ✓ Provide scheduled opportunities for comprehensive fire emergency response training for supervisory staff (those persons delegated with specific duties to carry out during a fire emergency) and others
- ✓ Determine whether designated supervisory staff can competently respond in accordance with the emergency fire and evacuation procedures;
- ✓ Determine whether supervisory staff respond in a timely manner to carry out their duties
- ✓ Determine whether sufficient supervisory staff respond in a timely manner to carry out their duties in care and detention occupancies and day-care centers
- ✓ Assess the ongoing effectiveness of the emergency procedures under different fire scenario conditions
- ✓ Comply with the Fire Code's mandatory requirement for conducting fire drills.

The procedure for conducting fire drills shall take into consideration;

- (a) the building occupancy and its fire hazards,
- (b) the safety features provided in the building,
- (c) the desirable degree of participation of occupants other than supervisory staff,
- (d) the number and degree of experience of participating supervisory staff, and
- (e) the testing and operation of the emergency systems installed in buildings within the scope of Subsection 3.2.6. of Division B of the Building Code.

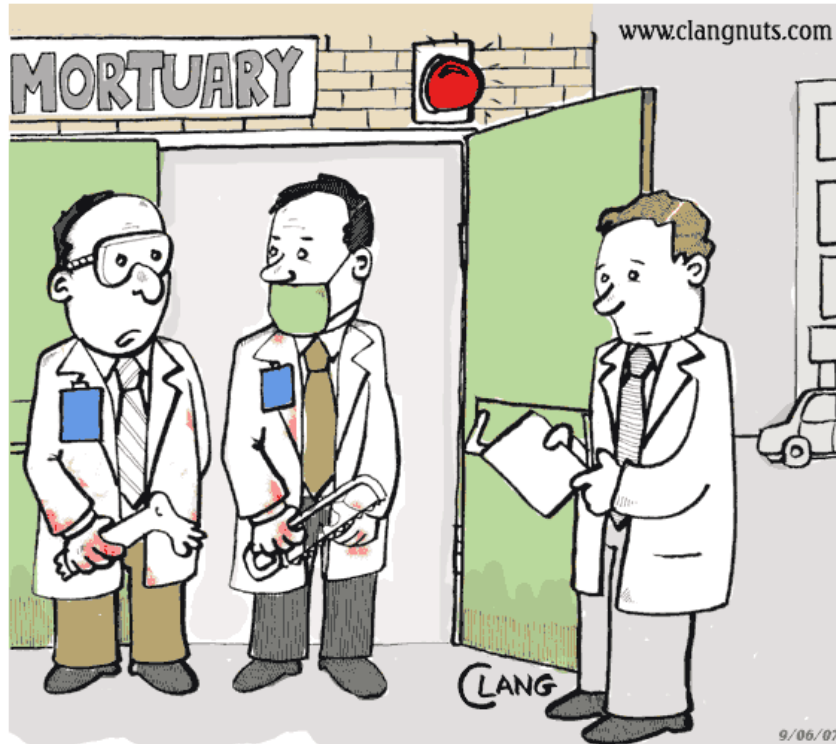
The fire drill procedures required shall be prepared in consultation with the Chief Fire Official.

Fire drills shall be held at least once during each 12-month period for the supervisory staff, except that;

- ✓ In day care centres, facilities regulated by or under the Developmental Services Act and care or detention occupancies, fire drills shall be held at least monthly
- ✓ In schools attended by children, total evacuation fire drills shall be held three times in each of the fall and spring school terms
- ✓ In buildings within the scope of Subsection 3.2.6. of Division B of the Building Code, fire drills shall be held every three months.
- ✓ In addition to the requirements of Sentence (1), every employee in a hotel establishment shall take part in at least one fire drill during each 12-month period.

Records of a fire drill required by this Article shall be kept for 12 months after the fire drill.

If you require help with organizing your fire drill, please do not hesitate to give us a call, and one of our staff will be able to help co-ordinate your drill to ensure that it is effective.



"Why do we always have fire drills when we're right in the middle of something?"