

Safety Management System (SMS) - Element 6

A health and safety management system in Saskatchewan's healthcare system includes the following six elements:

1. Management commitment and leadership
2. Hazard identification and control
3. Training and communications
4. Inspections
5. Reporting and investigations
6. Emergency response

Each element consists of sub elements.

Element 6 - Emergency response

An emergency response plan is to protect the health, safety and lives of people at the work site. It is essential that the emergency response plan be site specific and posted along emergency evacuation routes.

The objective of the plan is to prevent or minimize fatalities, injuries, and damage. The organization and procedures for handling these sudden and unexpected situations must be clearly defined.

An emergency may be defined as *"a situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, property or environment.* Emergency procedures are plans for dealing with emergencies such as fires, explosions, major releases of hazardous materials, violent occurrences, or natural hazards.

The development of the plan follows a logical sequence:

- Compile a list of the hazards (for example: fires, explosions, floods).
- Identify the possible major consequences of each (for example: casualties, damage).
- Determine the required countermeasures (for example: evacuation, rescue, firefighting).
- Inventory the resources needed to carry out the planned actions (for example: medical supplies, rescue equipment, training personnel).
- Based on these considerations, establish the necessary emergency organization and procedures.

Communication, training, and periodic emergency drills are required to ensure that when the plan must be implemented, that it is completed as intended. Drills must be evaluated and the results of the evaluation shared with all affected workers.

A safety management system becomes part of the culture - the way people safely do their jobs.

(source: Safety Management System Basics, SASWH, 09/15)
additional Safety Talks specific to Safety Management System (e.g., elements, Leading & Lagging Indicators, Risk Matrix) are available on www.saswh.ca

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!