

The IRMA Safety Line

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Occupational Safety & Health | Environmental Consulting | Food Safety | Litigation Support

What is a Pandemic?

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population; begins to cause serious illness; and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide. A worldwide influenza pandemic could have a major effect on the global economy, including travel, trade, tourism, food, consumption and eventually, investment and financial markets. Planning for pandemic influenza by business and industry is essential to minimize a pandemic's impact.

It is difficult to predict when the next influenza pandemic will occur or how severe it will be. Wherever and whenever a pandemic starts, everyone around the world is at risk. Countries might, through measures such as border closures and travel restrictions, delay arrival of the virus, but cannot stop it.

During a pandemic, transmission can be anticipated in the workplace, not only from patient to workers in health care settings, but also among co-workers in general work settings. A pandemic would cause high levels of illness, death, social disruption, and economic loss. Everyday life would be disrupted because so many people in so many places become seriously ill at the same time. Impacts could range from school and business closings to the interruption of basic services such as public transportation and food delivery.

Education and outreach are critical to preparing for a pandemic. Understanding what a pandemic is, what needs to be done at all levels to prepare for pandemic influenza, and what could happen during a pandemic helps us make informed decisions both as individuals and as a nation. Should a pandemic occur the public must be able to depend on its government to provide scientifically sound public health information quickly, openly and dependably.



Needs Ladder Training!

While reading product literature on emergency shower units, it stated that 30 gpm was fairly standard among drench showers; are there specific requirements for the rate of flow for an emergency eyewash or shower unit?

OSHA has adopted no specific requirements regarding flow rates for drenching/flushing facilities. ANSI Z358.1 provides detailed information regarding the installation and operation of emergency eyewash and shower equipment, including the requirements for flow rate. Section 4.1 of ANSI Z358.1 specifies that emergency shower heads shall be capable of delivering a minimum of 75.7 liters per minute (20 gpm) of flushing fluid at a velocity low enough to be non-injurious to the user. A sufficient volume of flushing fluid shall be available to supply the flow rate for a minimum fifteen minute period.

About Us

In our changing environment, your business is confronted with increasingly complicated risks and threats to its future.

Integrated Risk Management Associates, LLC (IRMA) provides the technical assistance to reduce your firm's exposure to loss. Our sources identify the threats to your business and its resources, and we assist you in planning to protect your assets.

Our team of experts will work with you to develop and implement programs to reduce risk, while increasing your productivity. IRMA will design custom policies, procedures, training, inspections and audits to ensure your employees' safety and your peace of mind.

Our trained, experienced, and dedicated staff possess the resources and are always available to protect you, your employees, and your assets.



Risk Happens...

Will You Be Ready?

We offer a wide range of risk management services, including:

- Occupational Safety & Health
- Environmental Consulting
- Food Safety
- Litigation Support

5 More Written Programs an OSHA Inspector May Ask To See

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance involves maintaining several mandatory written programs and records. As an addendum to last month's newsletter, the following is a management checklist of 5 more of the most common written programs and records that an OSHA inspector might ask to see.

1. Confined Space - Workplaces must be evaluated to determine if any spaces are permit-required confined spaces. If employees enter permit-required confined spaces, a written confined-space program that complies with CFR1910.146 must be developed and implemented. The written program must be available for inspection by employees and their authorized representatives.

2. Portable Fire Extinguishers - Ensure that all portable fire extinguishers undergo an annual maintenance check (CFR1910.157). Record the annual maintenance date and retain this record for one year after the last entry or for the life of the shell, whichever is less. The record must be available upon request.

3. Hazard Communication (HazCom) - Through a formal, written hazard communication program (CFR1910.1200), an employer must assess chemical hazards in the workplace to which employees may be exposed. This information must be readily accessible to all employees of all shifts whenever they require it.

4. Personal Protection Equipment Hazard Assessment - Assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, that necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). You must verify that the required workplace hazard assessment has been performed through a written certification that identifies the workplace evaluated, the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed, and the date(s) of the hazard assessment. Also, identify the document as a certification of hazard assessment (CFR1910.132).

5. Hearing Conservation - If employees are exposed to noise levels at or higher than 85 decibels for a time-weighted average of eight hours, you must maintain records showing compliance with OSHA's Occupational Noise Exposure

Standard (CFR1910.95). The records must contain the name and job classification of the employee, date of the audiogram, examiner's name, date of the last calibration of the audiometer, and the most recent noise exposure assessment for each employee. These records must be provided upon request to the employees, former employees, representatives designated by the individual employee, and the assistant secretary of OSHA.

Resources

In these economic times it is important to use all resources to the maximum potential. We are your safety resource. Use us!

IRMA

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