

NFEC Seminar 2008
CERT Good Practices Shared in Breakout Sessions

Notification

During emergencies, neighboring companies should also be informed so that they can take preventive measures if need be.

Equipment and Training

1. It is important to have detectors to demarcate the HOT zone (less urgency for demarcation of WARM zone) to prevent others from entering.
2. Where there is mutual aid agreement with other companies to supply equipment and manpower, it is necessary to exercise the component as well.
3. Equipment can be stored on trolleys or on mobile wagons for ease of transportation.
4. It is necessary to include stretchers and break-in tools inside the equipment inventory for rescue of casualties and to conduct forcible entry respectively.
5. CERT should be equipped and trained in chemical suits if there is a need to conduct rescue inside the HOT zone. This will increase survivability of casualties through prompt rescue rather than waiting for SCDF to arrive.

CERT Manpower

1. The FSM can double-up as a SIC to lead the CERT as long as his FSM duties such as evacuation is delegated to someone else. This will prevent conflict of interests as both frontline activities at incident site and peripheral activities such as evacuation of staff may need to be done simultaneously.
2. Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) should be divided into 2 main groups: 1 to mitigate the incident and the other to rescue casualties. Both these tasks are very crucial to prevent escalation of incident and increase survivability/prevent loss of lives.
3. ERTs should include personnel (security guards) to carry out support operations such as evacuation. This will provide 2-fold benefits: (1) to prevent others from moving towards the direction of danger and (2) to ensure smooth and speedy evacuation.

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Verifying and Sizing Up Incident

The SIC should personally conduct one round of AOS (appreciation of situation) by walking the ground to have a better situational picture of what exactly is happening before giving instructions to the CERT.

Assembly Area(s)/Equipment Storage

1. The FCC can be an ideal location for storage of equipment and assembly area for the CERT. The CERT will be briefed on the situation here and decide on what equipment is needed for the incident and respond appropriately.
2. In cases of huge premises alternate assembly areas with similar equipment storage can enable a speedy CERT response for mitigating an incident at any identified hazard locations.

Linking Up With SCDF

1. An extra set of company communication device should be made available and passed to SCDF to enable communications and information flow.
2. Security guards, since they are standing guard at the entrance, will be in the best position to receive SCDF and bring them to the exact incident location.

Identification of CERT members

CERT can be provided with uniquely colored vests with the role (e.g. SIC) stenciled in bold letters on the back of the vest for easy recognition during incident management.

Accounting for staff

A computerized accounting system can be used to check the number of people in the premises against the number of people evacuated to quickly determine missing staff and their last location before incident occurred.