



Fire & Life Safety Council

June 2008

Fire & Life Safety Council Members

E. Floyd Phelps, CPP
Chairman

Scott R. Gane, CPP
Vice Chairman

L.W. Baltissen

Richard P. Bielen

Larry R. Collins, PhD

Martin Cramer, CPP

Joseph F. Donoghue, CPP

Michael J. DuBose, CPP, PSP, CSP, CBCP

Michael Finnegan

Forrest P. Franklin, CPP, DABFE

Kenneth L. Gentile, PE

A. Stewart Kidd, CPP

William A. Minear, II, CPP, PPS

Donald L. Puck, CPP

Craig P. Remsburg, CPP

Sandra Sandiford-Carr, MS, PSP

**Newsletter Editor
Martin Cramer, CPP**



A Word from the Chair

The ASIS New York City Chapter had an extremely successful trade show on May 12th. This was their 18th ASIS NYC EXPO.

One of the things they did this year was to offer booths – free of charge – to any of the 31 Councils that wanted to participate in the show. Now that's a good price! I don't know how many councils took them up on the offer, but the Fire & Life Safety Council did.

Being a presence at a high-profile event and discussing council activities with attendees is a great way for the councils to build a stronger council-chapter relationship. In addition, our council got a chance to elevate our council's profile with security directors in the NY metropolitan area.

I hope all of you who attended the trade show stopped by our booth and met Mark DuBose, one of our Council members who staffed the booth for the day. The booth gave our Council a chance to meet with ASIS members and find out how our Council can better help the membership. Mark did a great job and said he had a good time meeting everyone.

The Fire & Life Safety Council wants to thank the NYC Chapter for their generosity and willingness to share the stage with ASIS Councils. Fern Abbott, who has been co-ordinator of the show for the past eight years, is a delight to work with. This type of collaboration makes a stronger Society. I hope they invite us back next year.

High-rise Emergency Exercise

By E. Floyd Phelps, CPP

A fire is not anything a security manager wants to face, especially in a high-rise environment.

David A. Talley, CPO, Director of Security for Renaissance Tower, the second tallest building in Dallas, heard that Dallas Fire & Rescue was looking for a high-rise building to use as a training facility for their department. Talley jumped at the chance and volunteered his facility after getting permission.

Training is not new to the Dallas Fire Department. They test their ability and tactics on a regular basis. For high-rise training, they usually practice at their training facility, using a five-story concrete bunker. Although the structure gives them a chance to train in a mock high-rise fire situation, it lacks the realism of a high-rise environment.

Training in a joint effort at Renaissance Tower was an ideal situation for both groups to train using an actual, fully equipped, modern-day structure to test both of their response plans. The resulting exercise was a joint effort between the security staff at Renaissance, Dallas Fire Department, Dallas Police Department, Medical Response, Arson Investigation, and the Salvation Army.

The commitment to the exercise was tremendous. The fire department had to organize and plan the training, make a commitment for budget and time for both manpower and equipment, and enlist the support of many other city service organizations.

David had to coordinate this full-scale assault on the building with the building management, the tenants, and his security staff. They had written plans and procedures and this was the chance to see if it all worked in a simulated disaster.

On Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 10:00 am, the fire alarm was activated on the sixth floor. The building security officer on duty called the temporary fire dispatch number. A city dispatcher assigned to the exercise answered the call and the exercise began.

Everyone treated the event like a real fire. The new mobile communications vehicle rolled into place. The Mobile Emergency Command Vehicle appeared on site. Next, the canteen vehicle of the Salvation Army arrived to serve coffee and snacks to the firefighters.

Everyone felt the exercise was a success. The Dallas Fire Department plans to have two high-rise exercises each year and are looking for other high-rise facilities that are willing to volunteer time and space.

High-Rise Certification Training Class

The City of Houston, Texas has started a free training program for Building Managers of high-rise buildings that are located in Houston. Successful completion of the monthly seminars gives every attendee a certification, valid for a period of five years from the date of training.

Houston has taken an aggressive approach to high-rise evacuation and fire safety procedures, and the certification training is both required and available.

Some of the topics covered in the seminar will include the latest fire safety features built into high-rise buildings, dynamics of fire, human reactions, emergency safety team / fire warden procedures for fire alarms and fires, evacuation procedures, and proper fire extinguisher operation.

There is no charge for attending these seminars. The only cost incurred may be parking fees, if applicable. Buildings will have different fire safety features. The building management from each building represented is required to inform its employees and Fire Wardens of their specific fire safety features to complete the certification.

Seminars are scheduled from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Persons arriving after 9:00 will not be admitted into the class.

The next class will be:

Monday, June 30, 2008

Four Seasons Hotel Houston

1300 Lamar, 77010

300 seats

All attendees must pre-register for the classes. The deadline is the Monday prior to the training. For further information call Inspector Steve Deal and leave a detailed message at (713) 865-7122 or go to the website:

<http://www.houston.tx.gov/fire/businessinfo/highrise-cert.html#app>

This class schedules are published and updated on the fire department web site (www.houstonfire.com).

Ready for Anything: The Importance of Security Preparedness

Exploring Our Options

Within the security profession, we are always reviewing and discussing just how we can provide a safer and more secure environment for our employees. For the majority of the circumstances, we do a very good job of this.

As our line of work continues to expand, our area of focus must grow with it. Not only do we respond to security and fire issues, we also need to be aware of medical issues and hazardous chemicals.

When we started to review our medical response issue over twelve years ago, we thought about the depth in which our training would be.

Initially, the decision was made to train our security staff, including contracted security, on basic first aid and CPR. Included in each security employee's contract was the requirement to be certified within 30 days of being assigned to our account.

After this program was in place, the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) was introduced within hospitals, ambulance services and fire departments. As this program grew and the number of lives saved through this method increased, it gained our attention even more.

We knew that obtaining an AED unit would not be easy. These units are known to be very expensive and would also require state approval. In addition, it would require a medical director to oversee the training and use of the equipment.

Fortunately, we secured training from a local fire department and access to their medical director. Subsequently, we purchased AED units that were compatible with the fire department's units. This allowed us to use our AED until the fire department arrived; at which time, they could plug their own unit into our pads.

The Next Steps

Our in-house security staff was the first to be trained, followed by our contracted personnel. Once this training was completed, the units were able to be placed as "in service."

Standard operating procedure makes having the medical bag and the AED on all medical calls a requirement, no matter the situation.

Expect the Unexpected

The following scenario occurred within months of putting our new AED units into place.

In August of 2004, we received a call to our communications center for an ill employee. Although the caller could not directly see the person, they could hear sounds of coughing and vomiting. No other information was available at that time.

Although this incident was unexpected, we felt well equipped for what would happen next.

The first patrol arrived within one minute of the call. At that time, the person was reported as not breathing and turning blue, after which CPR was started. The local fire department was called to the scene and advised that CPR was in progress.

We provided around five minutes of CPR and AED shocks prior to the arrival of the fire department. Following the fire department's arrival, they used our AED for additional shocks, pushed medications and then prepared the individual for transportation to the nearest hospital. Once on the gurney, they were able connect their own defibrillator and continued to provide CPR and shocks enroute to the hospital.

Being Prepared Can Save Lives

Within a short time frame from arriving at the emergency room, doctors were able to get a heartbeat and stabilize the individual. Not only was this person granted another chance at life, they were able to return to work within a month.

A follow-up phone conversation with the hospital's emergency room confirmed that our initial medical response assisted in saving our employee's life.

Since this incident, we have now placed AED units in all our buildings and are looking at extending the availability to other offices outside our corporate center.

The Ultimate Reward

Because of our preparedness, our security personnel were recognized in the following ways:

- Winner of the annual "Heart Saving Award" from The American Heart Association
- An EnCORE Award from The Principal, which rewards excellent work and dedication.
- Named "Officer's of the Year" by our local ASIS

No matter how much recognition we received, the greatest reward is seeing the employee as they walk through our corporate complex today.

Lessons Learned?

By F. Peter Franklin, CPP, DABFE

A major metropolitan fire department is not only a first response entity by definition but the agency charged with the most support responsibility in emergency management with such ancillary duties as EMT, Paramedic, building collapse and hazmat. As the War on Terror drags on time has graciously granted us pause to consider our progress toward preparedness through examining our mistakes--mistakes prodigious, sundry and for the most part foreseeable.

Vagaries that attend fire department operations became aggravatingly apparent during a combined mass exercise in California, July 2007. The simulation involved a metropolitan fire department, its special operations and hazmat divisions as well as its standard fire companies; coupled with components of the National Guard Civil Support Team (WMD).

Scenarios included simulated dispersal of sarin gas, anthrax and radiological material in a major high-rise office tower designed to simultaneously measure the capabilities of the responding agencies and the interface with the private sector management team. Shortfalls that presented were many, and pitifully, probable in a real-life event of any combination of these hypotheses.

Some things learned included:

Firefighters who approach staggering, vomiting and falling victims and touch, lift, carry, or tend to them likely become victims themselves and out of service as responders.

Cordoning a building's lobby area that houses the Life Safety System control room, elevator keys, fire phones and fan controls denies that area's vital tools, and in this case, absent any building personnel present, required breaking in the door.

It is possible that the senior fire official in the city on a given day may not be hazmat trained, thus dependent on intelligence gathering and transmission through means that diminish prompt and reasonable response.

It is imperative to include building management, security and engineering in dialog in the immediate term. Without this counsel, effective management of the event is moot.

Level A suits with bulky gloves are not conducive to manipulation of small keys attached to long phone coils, since one cannot see past visors made foggy by heavy breathing, henceforth, making keyway insertion exceptionally difficult.

Whether the decontamination chamber is a portable flushing fixture or two fire engines parked side by side to pump water on victims passing between them, the toxic waste goes into the sewer and its ultimate destiny or effect may not be immediately discernable.

Ambulances or coroner wagons that transport survivors, those dying, and the dead may not know what contaminants are involved until long after the forensic examination at laboratories a remarkable distance away.

Many more miscues made this day abet the theorem that success is achieved through repetition. The infamous Yankee manager, Casey Stengel has been quoted to say, "What you do in practice is what you'll do in the game".

Safety Management at the Caribbean Court of Justice – Part I

By Sandra Sandiford-Carr, MS, PSP

This article looks at safety management at the Caribbean Court of Justice in Trinidad in relation to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. The article is divided into two parts. **Part one** introduces the Act and looks at the responsibilities of the employer and the employee, the benefits of safety management, the steps needed to create and maintain a vibrant safety culture and the benefits of a safety and health committee.

Part two looks at how safety management is being implemented at the Caribbean Court of Justice including, management support, training, employee involvement and the setting up of a safety and health committee.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety is now compulsory in Trinidad and Tobago as mandated by the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. The Act assigns two regulatory functions namely

- 1) Settings standards to ensure that employers adopt practices and procedures that protect employees on the job and
- 2) Conducting inspections to ensure that employers are providing safe and healthful workplaces

Responsibilities of the Employer

Under the Act, employers are responsible for:

- Ensuring the safety, health and welfare of employees
- Ensuring the safety and absence of risks to health in handling equipment, machinery, articles and substances

- The provision of adequate and suitable protective clothing or devices to employees who may be exposed to the risk of head, eye, ear, hand, foot or other bodily injury
- The provision of information, instructions, training and supervision for employees at work
- Maintaining a safe place of work, without risks to health and with means of access and egress
- Conducting an annual risk assessment for employees/other persons accessing facilities
- Keeping a record of the findings of the assessment where 25 or more persons are employed
- Establish a safety and health committee where 25 or more persons are employed
- Preparing or revising in consultation with employee representatives, a written policy with respect to the health and safety of its employees
- Preparing an emergency response plan
- Providing health surveillance and maintaining records

The employer can be prosecuted for breaches of the Act including fines and imprisonment

Responsibilities of the Employee

The employee also has responsibilities under the Act including:

- Taking reasonable care for the safety and health of herself and other persons who may be affected by her acts or omissions at work
- Cooperating with her employer as far as necessary to ensure that duties are carried out
- Reporting to her employer any contravention under the Act or Regulations
- Using correctly any personal protective clothing or devices provided for her use
- The right to refuse to work where her safety or health is in danger

Employees can be prosecuted for breaches of the Act including fines and imprisonment.

The benefits of an Integrated Safety Management System

Safety is not just good for business, it is good business. Employers have an ethical responsibility to conduct their business in a way that ensures the reasonable health and safety of their employees. Employees who invest in workplace safety and health can reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities, this in turn results in a reduction in cost for the organization. It has been proven that preventing injuries and illnesses increases productivity (efficiency) and quality (effectiveness). Additionally, the organization benefits from a positive public image.

Creating and maintaining a vibrant Safety Culture

In creating and maintaining a vibrant safety culture the following areas must be addresses namely:

- Leadership must be clear and decisive, management must lead by example
- Communication must be both ways and the clearest possible message of safety goals and objectives must be conveyed.
- Employee involvement in establishing and staffing a safety and health committee where highly motivated staff maintain the culture
- A learning culture where the organization learns from previous incidents and analyzes behavior leading to unsafe acts
- Attitude towards blame in the development of a culture where information is communicated without fear of recrimination and blame is attached only where it is justified

Benefits of a Safety and Health Committee

The main function of a safety and health committee is to encourage two-way communication between management and employees. This type of communication results in:

- The promotion of a non-adversarial relationship
- Increase trust between employees and management
- Regular feedback to both employees and management on concerns and solutions

A properly functioning safety and health committee is one of the best ways to promote safety in the organization.

Read Part II in the Next Newsletter

Major Multi-Hazard Attack Exercise in California

The State of California is planning a major exercise for this summer. The test will enact a response to a series of terrorists' attacks. The scenario is designed to test the limits of response capabilities to a series of biological, chemical and radiological attacks. Unlike most exercises, the event will be extend over several days and will involve multiple locations.

The drill is a multi-agency effort involving fire, police and rescue along with local, state and federal agencies including Medical Examiner's and Coroner's office, National Guard, and FBI of the affected areas.

Peter Franklin, a new member of the Fire & Life Safety Council, has been designated Private Sector Logistics Director for the simulation. This role will include coordinating the training and briefings for the management of the facilities involved concerning their responsibilities in the Incident Command Center (I.C.C). In addition, duties require the assignment of 120 volunteers to serve as victims, evacuees and dead bodies, and training and supervision of the evaluators from the private sector who will help critique the exercise. He will manage the filming and archival documentation of the drill and act as a liaison with public agencies and media.

The planned mutual aid, multi-county response to this emergency exercise in a metropolitan setting will dramatize the effects of mass injury and death, test multiple communication networks, push the limits of crime scene investigation and management, and evaluate procedures for forensic identification of substances. Level A hazmat suiting is the order of the day, and scores of emergency vehicles, volunteers in moulage, and emergency operations personnel will be deployed in the largest test of private/public sector cooperation yet staged in the state.

Basement Fires

by L. W. Baltissen

Risky Threat against Protection Systems

It was 9.45 AM. An employee riding a motorcycle, arriving late for work, sped into the basement of the building where he worked. He headed for the employee parking area. He had just passed the main entrance gate when he was confronted by thick black smoke. He could see some security guards trying to extinguish a motorcycle that was on fire using small fire extinguishers. The employee began to have difficulty breathing due to the thick smoke. He was able to turn his motorcycle around and race from the basement back to fresh air.

This was recorded as a small basement fire incident. However, it does not mean the potential for basement fires is a small problem. Referring to the research of 400 buildings in Jakarta, Indonesia, by the Jakarta Fire service, most buildings are vulnerable to fires. Basement fires are the most dangerous fires, since they have the potential to disrupt building operations, create a lot of damage, and are difficult and problematic for firefighters to extinguish.

Some problems that the fire service team experience in basement fires are poor smoke ventilation systems causing poor visibility, storage of combustibles that add to the danger, and inadequate access that can easily become a trap. In addition, the fire protection systems are often inadequate or non-existent.

Fighting Basement Fires

The strength of the basement's walls does not always mean that the materials used are fire resistant. The wall and foundation may act as a heat and fire conductors to the upper floors.

It is important that the direction of the sprinkler heads in the basement faces up, not down. There are two reasons why sprinkler heads should face upright. First, the spraying water will cool down

the temperature of the floor above the burning basement. It is important to prevent the floor above from becoming a heat distributor. Second, the cascading water will form an 'umbrella shield' on nearby materials. If the burning material is located directly under the sprinkler head, the 'umbrella shield' will keep the fire localized.

Most Fire Service teams have Standard Operation Procedures for fighting basement fires. Basement fires require specific fire-fighting techniques and continuous drills, since the first challenge of a basement fire is to extinguish the flames in a space with limited air and lighting. If there is a misunderstanding among firefighters, it could be disastrous. Fire fighting must be well coordinated since there is little time to give instructions during the event. The leader should be trained and experienced to determine the proper techniques to use, react to changes in the fire's condition, and in directing personnel to avoid casualties.

Improving Protection Systems

The most important thing in basement fire protection is to convince building managers not to use basement areas as storage for combustible materials or a space where critical equipment, such as electrical panels or pumps, are located. If a fire occurs in the basement, the access to critical equipment can be inaccessible. If the fire is in the panel room, all functions of the building will be terminated.

Converting basements into public use – areas such as shops and public parking garages – requires adequate air calculation to protect building occupants. Liability issues should be considered. The first consideration is safety requirements—the condition of equipment that supports the safety of the building such as fire alarms, fire extinguisher placement and accessibility, and number and location of the smoke detectors. The second relates to health issues, such as lighting in the basement, noise level, and temperature. The third is related to accessibility, especially evacuation standards during fire. Accessibility is also a factor, related to access to materials and car exhaust fumes. There must be enough space for the public's comfort by providing good air circulation, enough lighting, and noise control.

The most important thing is to optimize the function of ventilation in the basement. Ventilation is important to circulate the air entering and leaving the room. Some countries have a regulation about the types of systems, which should be used as standard equipment in basements, such as automatic exhaust fans and smoke detectors. The automatic exhaust system provides ventilation for car fumes from the basement instead of exposing visitors and other vehicle owners to poisonous fumes. In fire situations, the automatic exhaust system aids fire fighters in the removal of smoke from the basement, making the source of the smoke more apparent.

**Save the planet – It's the only place in the Universe
with Chocolate!**



1625 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2818
USA

703-518-1447
Fax: 703-518-1517
Email: councils@asisonline.org