
Applies to: faculty, staff, students, contractors, subcontractors, and visitors.

Introduction

The management of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (UWM) is committed to preventing accidents and ensuring the safety and health of our employees. We will comply with all applicable federal and state health and safety rules. This written program is available at the following location for review by all employees: Online and by request from University Safety & Assurances - (414) 229-6339.

Summary

Fires, releases of chemical, biological or radiological materials, floods, gas leak, and other major emergencies that result in a building being evacuated may pose a health and safety threat to people. This procedure shall be followed to protect the individuals that need to re-enter the building as part of recovery operations.

Roles and Responsibilities

University Safety & Assurances (US&A) is responsible for:

- Procedure oversight consisting of this guidance document, providing initial and refresher training, professional expertise, and procedure review
- Serving as safety officer at an incident scene and ensuring procedure compliance

Responding/Recovery Departments or Contractors are responsible to:

- Comply with this procedure
- Assure new employees that may respond to incidents receive initial training
- Contact US&A for refresher training

Procedure

1. Incident Command (IC) will relinquish control of the building back to UWM, specifically University Police (UWM PD). (UWM PD may be IC.)
2. If UWM PD needs to conduct a criminal investigation and building will remain further closed to recovery departments, UWM PD will consult with US&A regarding the environment within the building to deem if personal protective equipment (PPE) is required to enter the building.
 - Building doors and other entryways will be locked, cordoned off, and/or security guards placed to ensure security of building and safety of people
 - Signage will be posted informing people of security status
3. US&A will assess the potential hazards and assign the PPE level required to enter the building or portions of the building. Consultants may be utilized to determine the level of PPE.
 - Assessments will be made throughout recovery process until all areas of the building have been returned to normal environment and no PPE required.

- The required PPE will be communicated via signs posted at points of transition in PPE level and via other channels (email, verbal).
 - Four gas (confined space) meters indicating oxygen, lower explosive limit, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide are located at the Heat Plant. The meters can be used as a cursory evaluation of the building environment.
 - If four gas meter indicates that there is enough oxygen and other gas levels are low (lower explosive limit, carbon monoxide, or hydrogen sulfide), but the level of other contaminants is unknown from a fire (asbestos, hazardous decomposition products**), respirators with multi-gas (olive green) and high efficiency particulate air or HEPA (magenta) cartridges are required. Full face, half face, and powered air purifying respirators may be used. See respiratory protection program for use requirements.
4. When investigation complete, building will be turned over to US&A and Facility Services for recovery operations, which will adhere to the PPE requirements in #3 and potential access restrictions.
 - Signage will be posted informing people of security/restricted access status
 5. When building conditions have returned to normal and PPE requirements are no longer required, the status will be communicated.

** Most common hazardous decomposition products from a fire involving building materials and contents are acrolein, benzene, formaldehyde, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Revision Record

Date	Comment	Reviewer