



A Few Thoughts on Workplace Safety From Your Security Committee

Security Tip #14: Emergency Response Assessment

If a catastrophic incident or serious medical emergency occurred at your courthouse, do you have properly trained personnel and resources available to stabilize the situation until fire and rescue arrive? Let us guide you through a quick survey.

1. Is your building equipped with lifesaving defibrillators? Do you know where they are located and who is trained to operate them? Do additional personnel need training in operating defibrillators? Most judicial districts have Marshals Service personnel capable of providing such training. Even though the defibrillator device has explicit operating instructions, many untrained people are hesitant to deploy them. Remember, in a cardiac emergency, every passing second is critical.

2. Do you know which occupants in your building are trained in cardiac pulmonary resuscitation? In the event of an emergency, do you know how to contact them? If no one in your courthouse has received such training, it is advisable that you solicit volunteers and make arrangements for instruction.

3. Are there personnel in your building trained in basic and advanced first aid? Are essential first aid materials available? You may wish to canvas the courthouse staff to determine if others are willing to receive such training.

4. In the chaotic atmosphere frequently prevailing in catastrophe incidents and serious medical emergencies, it is difficult to quickly identify people trained in operating a defibrillator, administering cardiac pulmonary resuscitation, or providing basic first aid to stabilize victims until rescue personnel arrive at the scene. A roster of building occupants with such emergency training should be readily available to all courthouse personnel.

Understandably, many judges may believe that the availability of such resources is not your responsibility. However, the potential for retrospective blame of others provides little solace if you or a member of your staff is the one in need of immediate medical aid.

Security Committee
Federal Judges Association