

Questionnaire on Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Purpose

This survey is being conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in order to improve the emergency procedures of this building. We ask that you complete this survey about your participation in the evacuation that occurred on February 19, 2010.

Completing this questionnaire is voluntary, but your assistance would be greatly appreciated to help improve the safety of the building occupants.

Please return this questionnaire to XXXXX

SECTION 1: Please answer the following questions about the time period between being alerted (e.g., from the alarm) to the incident in this building and entering the stairwell/elevator/exit.

(1) Where were you when you first became alerted (e.g., from an alarm) to the incident in this building? *(To be tailored to rooms in involved building)*

- Your own office/room
- Restroom
- Cafeteria
- Stairwell
- Colleague's office/room
- Elevator
- Basement
- Storage / copy area
- Meeting room
- Corridor
- First floor lobby
- Other, specify _____

(2a) On which floor were you located when you first became alerted to the incident? _____

(2b) What were you doing? _____ (e.g., working)

(3) How did you first become alerted to the incident? **Mark all that apply.**

- Alarm tone
- Voice alarm message to evacuate
- Voice alarm message to wait on floor/remain on floor
- Flashing strobe light
- Manager of company/Boss
- Evacuation coordinator/fire warden/fire safety staff for building
- Colleague/coworker
- Smoke (dark/dense) OR • Smoke (light/diluted)
- Flames/fire
- Other, please specify _____.

(4) What did you think was going on?

- Real fire emergency
- False alarm (the alarm is sounding by mistake)
- Test of equipment
- Regularly scheduled fire drill
- Security situation
- Weather emergency
- I didn't know what was going on
- Other, please specify _____.

(5) Once you were alerted to the incident, did you receive any instructions on where to go or what to do from one of the following? If yes, mark all that apply in the order that you received these instructions beginning with (1) until you entered the stairwell/exit.

- Voice alarm message (What did the message say? _____)
- Manager of company/Boss (What did he/she say? _____)
- Evacuation coordinator/fire warden/fire safety staff for building (What did he/she say? _____)
- A colleague/coworker (What did he/she say? _____)
- Other, please specify _____.

(6) Please number the following actions from what you did first (1) after the first alert to what you did next (2), and continue to number all of the actions that you performed until you entered the stairwell/exit. Please number the following actions (only those that apply) on the lines provided. If necessary, you can number the same action more than once.

- Continued prior activity.
- Waited (based on alarm instructions •, based on management instructions •) for instructions •, to see what others were doing •, to see if anything else would happen •). (How long? ____ mins)
- Looked around.
- Investigated — looked for the source of the alarm.
- Sought more information about the alarm/alert. (Where did you go? _____)
- Followed instructions. From whom? _____
- Gave instructions to others on what to do.
- Discussed with others (inside the building •, outside of the building •).
About what? _____
- Looked for others in the building.
- Gathered coat / shoes/valuables, dressed. (What things? _____)
- Gathered valuables. (What things? _____)
- Gathered emergency/coordinator supplies. (What things? _____)
- Saved file/turned off computer.
- Secured files/documents.
- Secured office/room/space (shut door •, turned out light(s) •, other? _____).
- Moved to a stairwell/elevator/exit (Started evacuation).
- Other, please specify _____.
- Other, please specify _____.

(7a) Could you see others around you on the floor? • Yes • No

(7b) If yes,

How many? • 1-2 • 3-5 • 6-10 • 11-20 • 21+

What were they doing? _____.

(8a) Did you feel at risk (in danger) at any time before you entered the stairwell?

• Yes – high level • Yes – moderate level • No

(8b) If yes, did your feeling of risk (in danger) increase before your entered the stairwell?

• Yes • No

(9) What was the main thing/reason that made you decide to evacuate?

_____.

(10) How much time passed from the moment that you became alerted to the incident until you entered the stairwell/elevator/exit? _____min.

SECTION 2: Please answer the following questions about the time period between entering the stairwell/elevator/exit and leaving the building.

(11a) How did you evacuate the building?

- Stairwell
- Elevator
- Both Stair and Elevator
- Walked directly outside to exit
- Other, please specify _____.

(11b) If you used an elevator, what was your primary reason for not using a stairwell?

- I have a condition that requires me to use an elevator.
- Elevators are quicker.
- Elevators are easier to use (physically).
- I could not find a stairwell.
- Other _____.

(11c) How did you find the stairwell/elevator/exit that you used to evacuate from your floor?

- I followed others.
- I followed EXIT signs.
- I knew the exit.
- I used the way I came in.
- I was instructed to use this exit.
- Other, please specify _____.

(12) If you left by a stairwell,

(a) Did you use... • Stairwell ___ • Stairwell ___

(b) Please check any of the conditions you encountered during the evacuation:

- € Furniture or other object(s) obstructed entry to stairwell.
- € Crowding in the stairwell.
- € Difficulty opening stairwell or exit doors (Which doors? _____).
- € Uncomfortable handrails.
- € Poor lighting.
- € Emergency responders were coming up stairwell.
- € People in front of you were moving too slowly.
- € People were standing /resting on the landings.
- € Confusion with which way to proceed.
- € Shoes were uncomfortable for the required distance.
- € Other, please specify _____.

(13a) During your evacuation, could you see others around you (e.g., in the stairwell)?

- Yes
- No

(13b) If yes, were they the same people from your floor?

- Yes
- No

(14a) From the time you entered the stairwell/elevator/exit until you left the building, how many minutes passed? _____min.

(14b) What time was it when you exited the building? _____ (e.g., 10:30 am)

(15a) Did you receive information or instructions that influenced your behavior while in the

stairwell/elevator? Yes • No;

(15b) If Yes, where did it come from (mark all that apply): If yes, mark all that apply in the order that you received these instructions beginning with (1) until you entered the stairwell/exit.

- ____ Voice alarm message (What did the message say? _____)
- ____ Manager of company/Boss (What did he/she say? _____)
- ____ Evacuation coordinator/fire warden/fire safety staff for building (What did he/she say? _____)
- ____ A colleague/coworker (What did he/she say? _____)
- ____ Other, please specify _____.

- Voice alarm message
- Manager of company/Boss
- Evacuation coordinator/fire warden/fire safety staff for building
- Another evacuee
- Other, please specify _____.

(15c) If Yes, what was this information? _____.

(16) When you exited the building, which exit did you use?

- Exit _____
- Exit _____
- Exit _____
- Other, please specify _____.

(17) Did any of the following conditions make your evacuation more difficult?

- € Temporary injury/condition, please specify _____.
- € Medical condition
 - € Respiratory condition
 - € Cardiovascular condition
 - € Chronic condition
 - € Other, please specify _____.
- € Vision impairment
- € Hearing impairment
- € Overweight
- € Mobility impairment/disability
- € Pregnancy
- € Other, please specify _____.

SECTION 3: Please provide background information about you and your experience with building evacuations.

(18) Have you ever been in a building fire before (where you saw smoke or flames and/or you felt at risk)?

- No
- Yes, in this building
- Yes, in another building

(19) What year did you begin living/working in this building? _____ or • N/A (e.g., visitor).

(20) How many times do you remember the fire alarm sounding in this building in the last year?

- None
- 1 or 2 times
- 3 to 5 times
- 6+ times

(21) Have you received any form of fire emergency training for this building?

- No
- Yes, but not in the past 12 months.
- Yes, in the past 12 months.

(22a) If yes, how did you receive the fire emergency training (check all that apply):

- Pamphlets or guides
- Video
- Seminars or presentations
- Evacuation drills/practice drills
- Other, please specify _____.

(22b) How many fire drills have you participated in for this building in the last year?

- None
- 1 or 2
- 3+

(23a) Are you aware of the fire evacuation procedure for this building? • Yes • No

(23b) If yes, please describe:

(24a) Sex: • M • F

(24b) How old are you? • 18-25 • 26-35 • 36-45 • 46-55 • 56-65 • 66+

(24c) Current status: • Currently married • Widowed • Divorced • Separated • Never married

(24d) Do you have any children (under 18)? • Yes • No

(24e) Highest level of education: • Some high school • High school graduate • Some college • College degree • Advanced degree

(24f) What is your native language? • English • Spanish • Other, please specify _____.

(24g) Are you an evacuation coordinator/fire warden for this building? • Yes • No

(24h) Are you a manager for your office/company? • Yes • No

Any Additional Comments:

**Thank you for taking the time to help us improve
emergency procedures and safety!**

NOTE: This questionnaire contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the PRA, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The estimated response time for this questionnaire is 10 minutes. The response time includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the length of this questionnaire, to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Attn., Erica Kuligowski, erica.kuligowski@nist.gov, 301-975-2309.