

prensa update

May 2013

SHELTER IN PLACE

Recent events in the Boston Marathon have brought forward renewed interest in the term 'Shelter in Place', particularly for the Capital Cities Emergency Plans such as Sydney Alert.

The Australian Standard AS3745-2010 Planning for emergencies in facilities "4.2.6.3 Evacuation options (c) Shelter in place (no evacuation)" is an emergency response option that allows occupants and visitors to remain inside a facility on the basis that an evacuation to an external location might reasonably expose evacuated people to a greater level of danger.

All places of work should be aware of this option, as it is not just limited to the central business districts of our cities. There are a number of different variations to this directive which will largely depend on the situation itself. It's important to identify some of the issues that wardens would face if a 'Shelter in place' directive was issued. Regular communication is essential; occupants will be more willing to accept a situation if they are kept better informed. The Chief Warden must ensure that communication updates are made every 20 minutes, even if there has been no change in the situation.

A variable affecting the management of the 'Shelter in Place' can be the time of day the situation has occurred. Late in the day people will naturally want to go home but moving from the building may not be the safest option. Some situations, as we have seen, may take a number of hours to resolve and occupants should be prepared. Emergency services will always act in the best interest of safety. Occupants should not encourage relatives or friends to attend the building to collect them, this may only add to congestion and additional problems for emergency services.



In some situations normal work activities can continue, lift movements however should be limited. For those who work in the CBD of Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane you should all be aware of the CBD emergency plan.

For more information please contact Prensa for expert advice and an informative handout on the subject of 'Shelter in Place.'

Is your building prepared for a Shelter In Place emergency?

Prensa can assist property owners and managers address all compliance requirements under the Australian Standard 3745-2010 "Planning for Emergencies in Facilities". Our training consultants can conduct scenario based exercises which will provide opportunities for the warden team to practice dealing with a Shelter In Place emergency.

Our extensive experience in maintaining emergency management in multi-disciplinary and large scale property portfolios will ensure an overall response strategy for all stakeholders.

Ask your Consultant during your next warden training session about some of the pros and cons if such a directive was given.

contact us

admin@prensa.com.au

prensa.com.au

twitter.com/PrensaPtyLtd

facebook.com/PrensaPtyLtd

MELBOURNE

(03) 9508 0100

Ground Floor,
261-271 Wattletree Rd
Malvern VIC 3144

SYDNEY

(02) 9033 8634

L1, 50 Yeo St
Neutral Bay NSW 2089

BRISBANE

(07) 3367 8944

L2, 16 Douglas St
Milton QLD 4064

CANBERRA

0459 124 150

PO BOX 1412,
Belconnen ACT 2616

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OUR KEY STAFF



Catherine Brown

Director, General Manager

0427 427 099

catherine.brown@prensa.com.au

- Over 15 years professional experience in all areas of emergency management consulting and business management.
- Now a Director and General Manager of the Prensa Emergency Management division, Catherine is continuing to work with major Property Management companies, financial institutions, iconic Australian manufacturing companies, retail precincts and mass gathering entertainment and sporting grounds.

With an operational bias to her management, Catherine continues to enjoy her involvement at a site level and ensuring the Emergency Procedures are compliant, pragmatic and innovative, encompassing the critical considerations and risk profiles of the site.



John McCrory

Consultant, Operations Manager

0419 209 501

john.mccrory@prensa.com.au

- Highly experienced in all areas of emergency management consulting spanning over 15 years, having collected vast knowledge at project management level in many areas of emergency management, risk management and occupational health and safety.
- Specific areas of expertise include procedural design, training content development and assessing site procedures including critical considerations when developing easy to understand emergency procedures.

With his heavy involvement in the Sydney Alert program for disaster management, and his continuation in being an active voice with the Australian Standards Board for 3745 Planning for emergencies in facilities, John brings a wealth of experience and expertise with emphasis on client satisfaction to the Prensa team.



Ciaran Gerrard

Consultant, Regional Manager

0459 124 150

ciaran.gerrard@prensa.com.au

- Closely associated within the Life Safety and Fire Safety fields from the start of his career.
- Specialised in the inspection and maintenance of 'life safety essential services' including fixed fire extinguishing systems protecting high value assets.
- Provided specialised advice and auditing of emergency procedures and associated equipment to a number of Commonwealth Government buildings within the ACT.

Ciaran's diligence and integrity for the information he provides to clients has enabled him to have a very thorough understanding of what works best regarding emergency procedures. More importantly, ensuring his training attendees always come away with useful skills and knowledge to handle an emergency.

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Anthony Spiteri

National Business Development Manager

0421 352 827

anthony.spiteri@prensa.com.au

- Well practiced in consulting, training and client relationship management with strengths in Emergency Management, Fire Safety, and Occupational Health and Safety.
- Thorough understanding of client policies and procedures and the application of regulations to suit diverse geographical environments.

With his experience in implementing best practice risk management processes for premier facilities such as the Sydney Tower, Sydney Central Plaza, and the prestigious Sky Garden office tower, Anthony has gained invaluable experience in client relationship management and his unique skill sets have added great value to the team.



Conchita Scherer

National Major Accounts Manager

0412 860 502

conchita.scherer@prensa.com.au

- Extensive knowledge of the Emergency Management business and more importantly the client's needs.
- Invaluable ability for managing and maintaining ongoing partnerships with key national clients and ensuring they maintain compliance to all relevant regulations and standards as well as achieving high level client satisfaction.

Conchita's experience in office administration, customer service, collections, financial management, marketing and business development coupled with her infectious enthusiasm and exceptional skill in maintaining these accounts ensures contractual KPIs, value add opportunities and cost efficiencies are consistently maintained for all Prensa clients.



Stephen Brown

Graphics Administrator

0435 240 085

stephen.brown@prensa.com.au

- Extensive background in graphic design specialising in emergency evacuation diagrams, supported by a degree in media production from Macquarie University.
- Designing and formatting a new style of diagram which complies with the Australian Standard and is aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

Testament to Stephen's work hangs on the walls of numerous buildings throughout Australia and has assisted countless occupants in all situations as to their location within a building. The diagrams have the ability to draw the passer by to look at the work, and are a unique asset for the Prensa client.