



Emergency Action Plan

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Today we are going over the purpose and need for an "Emergency Action Plan" (EAP).

The OSHA 1910.266 App A standard reads that we need to put an (EAP) into our first aid kits. After reviewing the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (NEC) Maine Logger Study results article, the good news is that over 80% of the loggers surveyed had an emergency action plan. The bad news is that still leaves 20% who do not have plans.

An EAP is essentially a script that you go to when an emergency happens on your job. This way you have the emergency numbers, directions and coordinates for your job at hand and you don't need to make them up on the spot. I have seen a few different ways these can be written. My nature is to make them simple to avoid confusion as much as possible. I start at a known location like an intersection, fire station or even a street address. Then give the distance to each turn and any road landmarks (ie. bridges, sharp corners, steep hills). I also research which way emergency service will come from so that my directions will make sense to the ambulance, fire department, forest rangers, game wardens or police. The last company that I worked for also gave them to the truck drivers for the first time they come to the job. Occasionally we would write special directions for the trucks from multiple directions.

I include in the emergency action plans the following:

A Title and a Date - So you can always see plainly which job the directions are for in case an old one gets left behind in the 1st aid kit. Remember the old adage "in with the new out with the old".

Important phone numbers - I generally don't give more than "911". Sometimes I add Lifeflight's direct number 1-888-421-4228. My thought process is that if I can only get one call out "911" connects you to a regional dispatch that can bring resources from multiple agencies including Lifeflight. Many times at incidents we need more hands and a regional dispatch can reach out to game wardens, forest rangers, local fire departments and EMS responders at the same time with the same information.

Lifeflight Landing Coordinates - They can use any coordinate system but they prefer degrees, minutes, seconds. (ie. N 45° 08' 34.8" / W 070° 25' 35.1")

Delorme Map - Page number and grid location. This is so Lifeflight can compare the coordinates with the map page and grid to see if they agree. (ie. Page # 29 / Grid C - 1)

In the example below, you will see how I lay the directions out. I have included a picture of our signs so the person making the call can describe what the signs to our job look like to the dispatchers without relying on their own memory for the description.



Coplin Pit
Emergency Directions
Summer 2019

Look for these Signs.



Directions to the HLOP Coplin Pit Job for summer 2019 cohort

At the intersection of Rt. 16 and the I. P. Road. Across from the Historic School House. Look for our signs. Go 2.5 on the I. P. Road and take a left, then go 3.0 miles take another left then go 3.2 take a right this is the beginning of our job. We will meet you there. You are now on our job.

Dial: 911

Lifeflight Coordinates: N. 45° 08' 34.8"
W. 070° 25' 35.1"

Delorme Map: Page: #29, Grid: C-1

The OSHA standard says that these directions need to be in the 1st aid kit but I didn't stop there. I also made directions for every pickup and I always had them in my machine where I kept the paperwork for the job so I could give directions without digging in the 1st aid kit if I was called on to make "The Call" but I was not close enough to render aid.

The last word on the emergency action plan is to train your employees on the importance of these plans, how to use them and where they need to be stored and managed. We can go through all the work in gathering the data, preparing the plan, printing, and distributing the plan to the crew and having them not know what to do with the plan or where the plan is would be a shame.