

INDUSTRY EXPERT ARTICLE

Using Emergency Escape Breathing Devices in Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) Situations.

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Emergency escape breathing devices (EEBD) are a type of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) used for emergency escape in immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) situations.

When properly used, an EEBD can provide emergency respiratory protection by allowing the wearer to escape from environments with atmospheres that are oxygen deficient or that contain toxic contaminants.

EEBD are typically compact and lightweight, supplying airflow from a compressed air cylinder to a loose-fitting hood that goes over the wearer's head, sealing at the neck. This high coverage design also protects eyes from irritation and allows the wearer to see more easily when walking to safety.

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BE READY: EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

According to OSHA, if your business is required to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), your plan must include:

- A preferred method and/or procedures for reporting fires and other emergencies (29 CFR 1910.38(c)(1) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(5));
- Emergency escape procedures and route assignments, such as floor plans, workplace maps, and safe or refuge areas (29 CFR 1910.38(c)(2) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(1));
- Procedures to account for all workers after an evacuation, such as designating an assembly location (e.g., a safe/refuge area) (29 CFR 1910.38(b)(4) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(3));
- Names, titles, departments, and telephone numbers of individuals both within and outside the company to contact for additional information or explanation of duties and responsibilities under the emergency plan (29 CFR 1910.38(c)(6) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(6));
- Procedures for workers who remain to perform or shut down critical plant operations, operate fire extinguishers, or perform other essential services that cannot be shut down for every emergency alarm before evacuating (29 CFR 1910.38(c)(3) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(2)); and
- Rescue and medical duties for any workers designated to perform them (29 CFR 1910.38(c)(5) and 29 CFR 1926.35(b)(4)).

Learn more here: <https://www.osha.gov/emergency-preparedness/getting-started>

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800-523-5367 | [Arbill.com](#)

Arbill
10450 Drummond Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154

Email: info@arbill.com



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