



Be Ready!

By Monika Valentine

Executive Director, OccMed Colorado

What constitutes an emergency in your office? Can your employees discern between normal and potentially volatile behaviors? Do they know what to do in a crisis?

Do you have an emergency plan in place? In a recent staff meeting at OccMed Colorado, we discussed the threats we encounter on a daily basis. We run health care clinics, so you might not think we're susceptible. However, when a person is injured at work and issued work restrictions, or if an individual has tested positive for illegal drugs, he or she can be furious. They might have lost wages, or they might not be able to return to the type of work they've been doing for years. In their minds someone is to blame and they might take it out on a member of our staff. What are the behaviors or situations that might make your workplace vulnerable? What steps can you take to mitigate an emergency?

If you haven't done so recently, we advise that you do some planning. Discuss the types of predicaments that might put your office at risk, and create a plan to deal with each one. You can even conduct test drills. How people react in a crisis can often determine the difference between a life and death situation. Make sure everyone in your office is properly prepared.

When OccMed Colorado was recently put to the test, I was pleased to learn that the processes we have in place, and all of the training we've done over the years, paid off. Can you say the same? Are you ready?

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