Evacuations and Shelter-in-Place: Training Staff for Calm and Order Stats and Facts

FACTS

- **Lack of Emergency Action Plans:**; Without a clear, written plan, staff may not know evacuation routes, roles, or procedures, leading to confusion and delays.
- **Blocked or Unclear Exit Routes:**; Obstructed, locked, or poorly marked exits can prevent timely evacuation and trap occupants during emergencies.
- **Inadequate Staff Training:**; Employees who are not trained or drilled regularly may panic, make unsafe decisions, or fail to assist others effectively.
- **Poor Communication Systems:**; Failure of alarms, unclear instructions, or lack of coordination can result in disorganized and delayed response.
- **Unassigned Roles and Responsibilities:**; Without designated leaders and responsibilities, critical tasks such as headcounts and assistance are missed.
- **Failure to Account for All Occupants:**; Incomplete headcounts during evacuation or shelter-in-place can leave individuals unaccounted for in hazardous areas.
- **Improper Shelter-in-Place Procedures:**; Lack of preparation for lockdowns, severe weather, or hazardous releases can expose occupants to unnecessary risk.

STATS

- In the United States, fires in educational and institutional facilities result in hundreds of reported incidents annually, requiring evacuation procedures and emergency response (National Fire Protection Association, 2021–2023).
- NFPA data shows that failure or absence of emergency

planning and training contributes to increased injury risk during fires and emergencies in workplaces and institutions (recent reporting cycles).

- In Canada, fire departments respond to thousands of structure fires each year, many requiring evacuation of occupants in workplaces and public facilities (Canadian National Fire Information Database, recent years).
- U.S. data indicates that blocked or compromised exit routes are a recurring factor in fatal fire incidents, reinforcing the importance of clear and accessible egress (NFPA investigations, recent reports).
- In Canada, emergency response reports highlight that lack of evacuation drills and preparedness increases confusion and delays during real incidents, impacting safe outcomes (provincial fire safety reports, 2021–2023).