

Fire Drills

A fire drill isn't just a tick-box—it tests how well the workplace can safely evacuate under pressure, ensuring lives are protected. Drills provide a chance to practice evacuation routes, identify barriers, and confirm roles and responsibilities before a real emergency.

What is the Danger?

- Confusion & Panic – Without practice, people often freeze or rush to familiar doors, creating dangerous bottlenecks and trampling hazards.
- Delayed Evacuation – Every second counts. Lack of drills means slower evacuation times, which can be fatal in smoke-filled or fire-spread conditions.
- Unidentified Hazards – If drills aren't tested, blocked exits, broken alarms, or accessibility issues go unnoticed until it's too late.
- Vulnerable Workers at Risk – Without rehearsals, workers needing assistance (mobility, hearing, language barriers) may be overlooked.
- False Sense of Security – Staff may assume they'll "figure it out" during a fire, but panic and smoke impair judgment.
- Legal & Liability Exposure – Failing to hold drills violates Manitoba legislation, exposing the employer to orders, fines, or lawsuits if an incident occurs.

Safety Tips

- ✓ Know your closest exit and at least one alternate.
- ✓ Treat every alarm as real—evacuate immediately, don't delay.
- ✓ Stay calm, walk—never run—to prevent falls or trampling.
- ✓ Assist others who may need help (mobility, vision, hearing).
- ✓ Report blocked exits, damaged alarms, or other hazards right away.
- ✓ Gather at the designated muster point for roll call—don't re-enter until cleared.

Demonstrate - Show staff:

- The fire alarm pull stations.
- Primary and secondary evacuation routes.
- Designated muster point outside.

Discussion Questions

- If your usual exit were blocked, what alternate route would you take?
- Where is the designated muster point for our workplace?



