



September 2022

Dear RETRO Members:

September is **National Preparedness Month**, a month designated to remind us to prepare for emergencies.

Dedicate time to:

- Review first aid and earthquake kits and replenish items as needed
- Update your emergency plan to ensure its disaster readiness
- Perform a hazard inspection to correct and secure things that need attention
- Create or update your business continuation plan to sustain operations as much as possible



Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The time you invest in preparedness will save lives and your business.

Please consider this comprehensive [business planning/preparedness](#) information and get the [FEMA App](#).



Last month, we discussed the three dimensions essential to building a resilient workplace **safety system** – **motivation**, **actions**, and **knowledge**. Now, we want to focus on what management commitment looks like so that the **motivation** continues long after the safety meetings.

At the organizational level, **motivation** results when three elements function together: **relationship**, **communication**, and **accountability**. We're going to focus on the **relationship** and **communication** elements in September.

Management must demonstrate that safety is a priority through personal involvement in safety meetings and planning. That's where ***relationship*** plays a role.

Management must make safety relatable to every employee, whether in safety meetings or casual *hallway conversations*—it's all about *relationships*!

The second element is **communication**. Caring and relational messaging *motivate* safety behaviors. The messaging, whether formal or informal, must be clear: *Safety is a priority throughout the organization.*

Again, safety is *built on relationships and trust*. The way you communicate with employees will earn their trust.

Fire Safety – With Fall approaching, it's the perfect time to review fire safety by checking fire alarms and smoke detectors and inspecting heating systems and electrical equipment for proper functionality.

- How are those fire extinguishers holding up?
- Do your employees know how to operate a fire extinguisher?
- Are emergency exit doors free from blockage and operating correctly?
- When did you last perform a fire drill exercise?



If a fire were to happen, is everything in place for everyone to safely exit?

You can find some great information on fire-related safety at [RS SafetyTV](#).

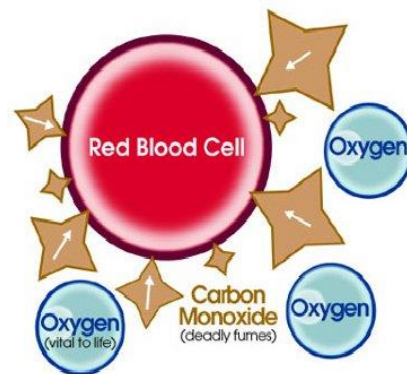
In addition to fire safety, are you aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home and workplace?

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – As the weather gets cooler outdoors, we close our doors and windows more often and start turning on our home's heaters again. This is an excellent time to

be aware of which equipment is being used, especially gas-powered engines in vehicles, forklifts, heaters, generators, and others.

Because CO is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not be aware if they become exposed. Symptom severity is related to both CO levels and duration of exposure. High-level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death



[RS SafetyTV](#) has a couple of good videos on CO poisoning.

Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.

Rick Means

Director of Safety & Education
Retail Association Services Inc.
rmeans@waretailservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 118

Chris Silver

Member Services & Data Coordinator
Retail Association Services Inc.
csilver@waretailservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 122