

APPLICABILITY OF DOE O 151.1C REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL BUILDING EVACUATION DRILLS

QUESTION: Does the DOE O 151.1C requirement for annual exercises for building evacuation apply only to those facilities required to meet regulatory requirements as identified in Chapter III, 4.b (1) or does it apply to ALL facilities regardless of applicability of regulations, size, occupancy, location, etc.? Or are all occupied facilities required to conduct an evacuation/fire drill annually?

ANSWER: According to DOE Order 151.1C, at a minimum, each DOE/NNSA facility must conduct evacuation/fire drills consistent with Federal regulations, local ordinances, or National Fire Protection Association Standards. These required drills must be conducted at least annually.

Specifically, DOE O 151.1C, Chapter III, 4. b (1) requires that:

“At a minimum, each site/facility must conduct building evacuation exercises consistent with Federal regulations [e.g., (41 CFR 102-74-360)], local ordinances, or National Fire Protection Association Standards. Exercises must be conducted at least annually to ensure that employees are able to safely evacuate their work area.”

If a specific regulation, ordinance, or standard is applicable to facilities at a DOE/NNSA site, then the conduct of the drills, including occupancy and utilization criteria for determining the need for the drill, will be effectively determined by that regulation, ordinance, or standard. However, the frequency of these mandatory drills is expected to comply with the requirement of DOE O 151.1C to conduct drills “at least annually.”

If facilities at a DOE/NNSA site are under no specific regulation, ordinance, or standard addressing building evacuation/fire drills, then the Authority Having Jurisdiction, as defined in DOE O 420.1B, *Facility Safety*, may establish local requirements for the conduct of evacuation drills “at least annually” based on accepted standards and best practices.