Hoisting Evacuation Must Be Included in Emergency Response Plans

The purpose of this bulletin is to direct attention to certain requirements of 30 CFR 250, Subpart S, Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS), and to clarify those requirements. The release of this bulletin is the result of BSEE recently becoming aware of the fact that several SEMS programs do not properly address evacuation of injured or otherwise incapacitated personnel from a facility using stokes litters or other types of safety litters capable of being safely hoisted.

30 CFR 250.1915 states, in part, that SEMS programs must establish and implement a training program addressing “emergency response and control measures.” It further requires that training programs require the use of periodic drills to verify “adequate retention of the required knowledge and skills” addressed in the training program.

30 CFR 250.1918, which is focused on emergency response and control, states, in part, that SEMS programs “must require that emergency response and control plans are in place and ready for immediate implementation” and are validated by the previously described periodic drills. Furthermore, both the training and drills for all personnel (including contract personnel) must incorporate personnel evacuation.
BSEE’s interpretation of the above regulatory references is that evacuation of personnel includes the evacuation of injured or otherwise incapacitated personnel from a facility using stokes litters or other types of safety litters capable of being safely hoisted. Therefore, training and drills for such hoisting evacuations must be addressed in SEMS programs.

Therefore, BSEE requires that hoist evacuation training drills, as with all emergency response training drills, shall be based on varied, realistic scenarios and designed to verify that:

- The response plan is complete and understood by all personnel involved;
- All safety and emergency equipment involved in the plan perform properly; and,
- Communication systems remain active during the entirety of a response plan activation.

--BSEE--