

## FIRE PRECAUTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS



**This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites in Victoria are aware of the compliance requirements for fire fighting equipment during construction.**

These requirements are from National Construction Code Series 2013 Volume One, building code of Australia, Class 2 to Class 9 Buildings (BCA), and AS/NZS 3745.

The Occupational Health & Safety Act 20014 states that an employer must ensure, that in the event of an emergency at any place of work at which the employer's undertaking is conducted, arrangements (such as evacuation diagrams) have been made for the safe and rapid evacuation of persons from the place of work.

Furthermore, details of the arrangements for any such evacuation are kept on display in an appropriate location or locations at the place of work. AS 3745-2010 'Planning for emergencies in facilities' is designed to suit the requirements.

The BCA Section E1.9 Fire Precautions during construction, states; in a building under construction;

- (a) not less than one fire extinguisher to suit Class A, B and C fires and electrical fires must be provided at all times on each story adjacent to each required exit or temporary stairwell or exit; and
- (b) after the building has reached an effective height of 12m;
  - (i) the required fire hydrants and fire hose reels must be operational in at least every story that is covered by the roof or floor structure above, except the 2 uppermost stories; and
  - (ii) any required booster connections must be installed.

Compliance with the requirements rests with the builder. If these requirements are not complied with, the relevant building surveyor responsible for the issue of the building permit, must ensure compliance with the BCA.

It is the recommendation of the ETU that if any of the above steps are not followed, work should cease.

Contact your designated Health & Safety representative, your local organiser or your Union OH&S officer.