

Does your training pass the “Your Honor” Test?

In an internal company survey recently conducted over 84% of Chief Fire Wardens have NEVER evacuated a building in an emergency. And over 92% of their support team have never been part of the evacuation team during a real emergency.

And if you think the fire brigade will take over when they arrive, you are mistaken.

The fire brigade are not there to evacuate the building. They expect evacuation to have taken place or be in progress when they arrive. Officers in control of the incident will utilise the on-site fire wardens to continue the evacuation under their supervision.



Fire brigades around the world have an excellent response time but if there is any delay in them reaching you, evacuation could remain under your control until conclusion.

Discussions with a Melbourne-based senior security and safety consultant also identified that no program currently exists to actually test chief fire warden EWIS panel management competency.

While the security and safety of building occupants is a high priority, most safety consultants overlook the skills of the Chief Fire Warden to perform an efficient and safe evacuation because they assume it has already been addressed during safety training. Over the last 5 years however, security and safety training has focused more on external physical threats than evacuation procedures.

With Australia now rated as the second most litigious country in the world (<https://www.abc2c.com.au/australia-comes-second-in-being-litigious>) building owners and managers need to ensure that their Chief Fire Warden and their support staff can safely perform a partial or full building evacuation without any tenants being injured.

And if the building accommodates “Value-Based Billing” companies such as legal firms, consultants etc, then the possible law suit for loss of productivity can also be a real concern.

As one security manager of a high-rise building in Melbourne recently stated: “If I accidentally evacuate the legal firm in this building for no good reason, I’ll be looking for a new job.”

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Today building evacuations WHS compliance does not emphasise to test competence. If you think the practice of performing a building evacuation once a year ensures competence, you're wrong.

Evaluating the risk of a building evacuation puts it clearly in the high end of the scale. It is something that rarely happens, but during a real emergency the likelihood of a life threatening injury rises significantly. Evacuating several thousand people from a building in an emergency, if not managed correctly, can result in injury or worse.

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
Almost Certain 5	5	10	15	20	25
Likely 4	4	8	12	16	20
Possible 3	3	6	9	12	15
Unlikely 2	2	4	6	8	10
Rare 1	1	2	3	4	5

With this risk profile, it is unacceptable that the training for staff is limited to a once a year exercise.

Gaining conscious competence requires practice and is only achieved when there is deliberate and conscious involvement in executing the skill. Practicing building evacuations once a year does not develop conscious competence and preparation by the team the day before the practice evacuation is not a real world situation.

Just because a skill or idea has been learned does not necessarily translate into a high level of mastery. This is especially problematic in the dynamic area of emergency services, where learning must be turned into doing at the "unconscious competence" level.

There is only one way to achieve unconscious competence. Repetition. And Repetition means frequent practicing of a skill, until one is unconsciously competent. Like "automatic pilot".

VeeSim has been developed to allow all relevant staff (those staff that may be placed in the position of acting as the chief fire warden) to practice evacuating the building in simulated emergency.

VeeSim addresses the main issue of training chief fire warden staff by providing a simulated environment where staff can be trained repeatedly until they are unconsciously competent.

VeeSim also provides training managers with a simulated environment where a variety of emergency situations can be developed, tested and delivered to staff to broaden their experience in managing emergency situations.

Practicing building evacuations once a year does not develop competence or address the risk profile of the exercise.

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The oil industry has a unique test for evaluating any changes to work procedures or training requirements identified. It's called the "Your Honor" test.

The "Your Honor" test is very simple. If a serious injury or death occurs at your work place, as a witness in court, if the judge asks if relevant and adequate training had been provided, your answer must be "Yes, Your Honor".

If your answer is "No, your honor," you personally and your organisation may be found culpable.

At present in most locations around the world, building evacuation training for chief fire wardens substantially fails the "Your Honor" test.

The key benefits of VeeSim:

- Allows staff to become familiar with EWIS panel functions in a NO-STRESS environment
- Supports the training of EWIS panel operations in accordance with evacuation procedures including:
 - WIP Phone communications and language
 - PA use, announcements for specific floors and general
 - Prioritisation of floor evacuation based on floor function
 - Partial or full building evacuations
 - Management and handling of WIP phone calls
- Provides the ability to train staff in EWIS panel operation in a simulated high stress situation
- Enables the simulation of different types of emergencies: fire, earthquake, gas leak, weather events, unknown substances etc.
- The provision of an onsite training simulator to perform routine ongoing training reinforcement that builds staff confidence and unconscious competence
- VeeSim is the only product in the world that can provide a platform for training, testing and scoring a trainee in EWIS Panel operation during a simulated emergency and provide detailed reports on testing performance.
- VeeSim ensures you pass the "Your Honor" test

Risa Connections Pty Ltd (based in Melbourne Australia) has developed VeeSim based on the experience of its own staff while acting as chief fire wardens. Development has been guided by industry experts with many years experience in building safety and security.

There is only one way to ensure chief fire warden unconscious competence in building evacuations. Repetitive training.

VeeSim delivers unconscious competence in building evacuation capability.

For further information on VeeSim or to download a trial copy of the simulator go to www.veesim.com or email us at info@veesim.com

Does your training pass the "Your Honor" test?

If you think performing an evacuation exercise once per year will ensure competence. You're wrong.

VeeSim addresses the main issue of training chief fire warden staff by providing a simulated environment where staff can be trained repeatedly until they are unconsciously competent.

You can now answer "Yes Your Honor"

VeeSim delivers unconscious competence in building evacuation capability.