



# Workplace Preparedness During Times of Unrest

Daily news reports remind us of the harmful nature of any crisis. The unemployment rate is rising in the US and globally, response is not as effective as needed, and people everywhere are already, or beginning to, struggle financially. Add this to the likelihood of business failures, protests, and a protracted period of unemployment—and you have a nation that is stressed, wanting to be heard, and anxious.

## Preparation Tips for Businesses

- Have an up-to-date emergency preparedness and business continuity plans in place
- Ensure you have an emergency communication plan for employees
- Provide current evacuation procedures to all if you are at the workplace
- Have an alternate site to stand up essential company operations in case main facilities are not accessible
- Secure external resources in advance to assist in an emergency

## Individual Safety Tips

- Be alert and practice situational awareness
- Do not be distracted by your phone
- Be aware of your surroundings if you are entering what appears to be an unsafe situation
- Always be aware of escape routes for emergencies, and quickly leave areas that are not safe
- If you suspect a dangerous situation, stay away from locations likely to be the target or site of protests
- Evacuate the area as fast as possible and seek shelter
- Keep your car full of fuel to facilitate evacuation

The content in this article is meant to offer general guidelines for safety and awareness. Additional resources can be found on the OSHA FactSheet and SHRM.

LINK: [https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_General\\_Facts/factsheet-workplace-violence.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-workplace-violence.pdf)

LINK: <https://www.shrm.org/ResourcesAndTools/Pages/Workplace-Violence.aspx>

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