

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP 6/20/11 – ICE CUBED

In Case of Emergency or “ICE” was widely promoted last week at the Annual Conference of the American Society of Safety Engineers. It has been in the news for a few years. It is a universal system where emergency responders, such as police, fire, ambulance personnel, etc., can look in someone’s cell phone and find pre-programmed identification information.

But there’s more – more than just personal identification information that should be programmed into a cell phone. Here’s what we mean:

ICE 1: Use the identifier ICE in your cell phone to enter in your name, address and any pertinent medical information, such as whether you are a diabetic, have seizures, and/or what medication you use. You can make additional entries in your ICE information of who you want contacted in case of an emergency, like your family, or a close friend that can come to help you.

ICE 2: In many locations, if you need to call 9-1-1 to report an emergency from your cell phone, it will go to an emergency dispatch center that is not near to where you are calling from. For example, the SCM main office is in the San Francisco Bay area. But last week, two of our trainers were speaking in Chicago, Illinois. If they had witnessed an emergency and tried to call 9-1-1, the call would have been answered somewhere near San Francisco. Not helpful! Most police and fire dispatch centers have phone numbers, other than 9-1-1, that are used for emergencies. If you are working away from your usual worksite, or are going on vacation – look up the emergency number for where you are going, and program it into your phone. For those of you who need these numbers for the San Francisco area, there is a downloadable list on the SCM website on the Industry News page at http://www.scm-safety.com/industry_news.html.

ICE 3: Many organizations have different procedures for contacting emergency assistance. Some of our clients require that you contact the Security office. Some ask that the main Control Room be contacted. And some clients require an additional number be used first to access an outside line. It is important that no matter where you are, you find out how to quickly get help. If you are going to be at that site for awhile, you might want to program it into your cell phone.

As Ron Gantt, SCM team member, tells his students, the best time to prepare for an emergency is before it happens. Learn how to get help before you or someone near you needs help.

You may think of additional ICE information to put into the tray. Let us know your ideas. You can reply to this email, or respond on facebook at Safety Compliance Management, where we can share your ideas with a wide audience.