

Press Release

DEKRA Work Safety Report 2018/2019 Highlights Fire Safety Shortcomings

Escape Route Unknown

- Many employees not trained in fire safety
- Preparation and training save lives if a fire breaks out
- DEKRA Work Safety Report 2018/2019 published

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Almost three out of ten SMEs have fire safety shortcomings, a fact revealed by the DEKRA Work Safety Report 2018/2019. According to a forsa survey conducted on behalf of DEKRA, many companies (28 percent) fail to conduct the regular fire safety training required by law. This training is designed to ensure that all employees know how to prevent fires, what they must do if a fire breaks out and where the life-saving escape routes are located.

On behalf of DEKRA, the forsa institute surveyed a representative sample of 300 decision-makers from occupational health and safety and HR departments in companies of between 10 and 500 employees. At 14 percent of the companies surveyed, no fire safety training is provided at all. At a further 14 percent of the companies, the survey revealed that training is not provided on a regular basis.

“Correct preparation for fires can make all the difference between life and death,” said Dr. Karin Müller, Head of People & Health at DEKRA. “Anybody who does not know their escape route, for example, will be in grave danger if there’s a fire. Fire safety drills simulate an emergency that rarely occurs, but they should nonetheless be a matter of course – like fastening your seat belt in a car.”

Incidentally, if an employer neglects fire safety training, they are infringing the law (section 10 of the German Occupational Health and Safety Act; section 4 of the DGUV, Provision 1). The training covers what to do in the event of a fire – including raising the alarm, firefighting and evacuation. Employers must also raise awareness of how to avoid fires in the first place, for example by drawing attention to the dangers posed by electrical devices or candles in offices and demonstrating how fire doors work.

The new DEKRA Work Safety Report 2018/2019, which will appear in the next few days, highlights ways in which occupational health and safety could potentially be improved. The report focuses on key elements of occupational health and safety such as risk assessments – especially psychological risk assessments – and training obligations. After all, for DEKRA, “Vision Zero” – the goal of zero fatal accidents – applies to the field of occupational health and safety too.

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About DEKRA

DEKRA has been active in the field of safety for more than 90 years. Founded in 1925 in Berlin as Deutscher Kraftfahrzeug-Überwachungs-Verein e.V., it is today one of the world's leading expert organizations. DEKRA SE is a subsidiary of DEKRA e.V. and manages the Group's operating business. In 2018, DEKRA generated estimated sales totaling more than 3.3 billion euros. The company currently employs more than 46,000 people in approximately 60 countries on all six continents. With qualified and independent expert services, they work for safety on the road, at work and at home. These services range from vehicle inspection and expert appraisals to claims services, industrial and building inspections, safety consultancy, testing and certification of products and systems, as well as training courses and temporary work. The vision for the company's 100th birthday in 2025 is that DEKRA will be the global partner for a safe world.