**

*This video explains how using the principle that the safety of our staff and clients is our top priority aids in making decisions. Consider the needs of everyone present at a facility (workplace) and be sure that first time visitors are given some orientation to EM procedures****.***

**Transcript**

*From the outset, you must clearly state that the* *health and safety of the staff are your top priorities. This will become evident when making decisions about the emergency response plan and your selection of resources supporting your preparedness program. The situation may arise where you must make a choice between two or more alternatives. In that situation, remembering that safety is the top priority may help you make the correct choice. Let me give you an example.*

*Perhaps some of the recommendations in the* ***Ready Rating Next Steps Report*** *suggest spending money on items that exceed your annual budget. For example, purchasing handheld fire extinguishers, training some members of your staff in CPR, or recruiting volunteers for a Safety Warden program.*

*All of these are good ideas, but your funds are limited. How will you decide what to spend money on and what to defer until next year?*

*In this example, there is no single answer that’s right for everyone. The correct choice depends on many factors that are unique to your facility and organization. However, I hope you can see how asking the question, “Which of these alternatives will have the greatest impact on staff safety?” can help you decide to do one, the other, or some of each.*

*Publicly stating that safety is your program’s top priority sends an important message to everyone at your facility and can help you make the complex decisions that go along with building and maintaining an effective emergency response program.*