

# FLA'S FIRE SAFETY INITIATIVE

## Preventing fires and saving lives by empowering workers and factory managers

**Imagine you're hard at work** on the top floor of an old factory building, and suddenly the room is clouded with smoke. Your coworkers begin shouting and running to the only exit door. It is hard to breathe, and difficult to see. The door is locked—but even if it wasn't, the fire is burning from below and the only way to escape is through a window. **Remember: you're on the top floor of the building.**



Thousands of workers have faced a scenario like this and have not survived. In 2012 alone, more than 400 people died in major apparel factory fires in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Most of these deaths could have been prevented if only factory managers and workers had been provided with the right knowledge and training.

FLA has begun working with local experts in communities around the world to prevent fires by developing and implementing tools to empower workers and focus on changing behaviors at the factory level. FLA's program is unique in that it will provide both bottom-up and top-down solutions; simply training workers on how to use fire extinguishers won't be nearly enough, nor will insisting on the adoption of policies and procedures by factory managers or buyers.

### OVER THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM, FLA'S INITIATIVE WILL:

- S**et out a comprehensive package of foundational fire safety competencies for adoption by buyers and employers and implementation at the factory level
- A**ssess fire hazards and the ability of factory workers and managers to respond to emergencies using a self assessment tool based on the foundational competencies
- F**acilitate dialogue and sustainable solutions by engaging local experts in communities around the world
- E**mpower workers to become fire safety ambassadors and complement the work of safety and health professionals and committees by creating a culture where workers are collectively concerned with each other's welfare and express discomfort with unsafe working conditions
- T**rain workers and managers on foundational fire safety competencies and all elements of a facility's fire safety program
- Y**ield a study of the effectiveness of implementing fire safety programs, and a guide on emergency action and contingency planning

All companies, civil society organizations, institutions and government agencies are invited to participate in this initiative. Visit [www.fairlabor.org/firesafety](http://www.fairlabor.org/firesafety) for more information or email [firesafety@fairlabor.org](mailto:firesafety@fairlabor.org) to get involved today.