

# BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

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## Fire Safety in Qatar After the Villaggio Fire

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

### Reading

- Case Study, "Fire Safety in Qatar After the Villaggio Fire".

### Questions

1. Speaking descriptively, *what* is responsible for the deaths of nineteen people on May 28, 2012 at the Villaggio Mall in Doha? From a normative perspective, *who* is responsible for those deaths?
2. Based on your understanding, was the Villaggio Fire a catastrophic event that could have happened anywhere, or was it something more particular to the environment of Qatar?
3. What do you think is meant by a "culture of safety"? In light of the various recommendations made in the article for fire safety in Qatar, what are the various elements of this culture?
4. In light of the Villaggio Fire and the gas tank explosions at Al Andalus Petrol Station, Istanbul Restaurant, and North Field Gas Station, along with the commercial and government responses to those events, what is Qatar doing to promote a culture of safety?