

Fire Emergency and Crisis Response Drills

A fire drill shall be held at least once a month in the school. The initial fire drill must be held not later than thirty (30) days after the first day of each school year. A crisis response drill shall be substituted for one (1) of the required monthly school fire drills every three (3) months. The Principal shall prepare a definite fire emergency plan, and furnish to all teachers and students, information as to route and manner of exit. Fire drills shall be planned in such a way as to accomplish the evacuation of the school in the shortest possible time and in the most efficient and orderly fashion.

The format of the crisis response drill shall be developed in consultation with the appropriate local law enforcement agency. Further, a representative of the law enforcement agency may supervise and participate in any of the required crisis response drills. Such drills shall incorporate the basic protocols of lockdown, evacuation, and shelter-in-place responses. The activation and utilization of the Incident Command System shall also be a part of the crisis response drills.

The Principal or his/her designee shall keep a record of all fire and crisis response drills held in the school, stating the date the drill was held and the time required for the response protocols utilized in the drill. They shall furnish such reports to the Superintendent or his/her designee as may from time to time be required.

Local law enforcement and other local public safety officials shall evaluate, score, and provide feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills conducted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes. The Board of Education shall annually submit reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis response drills.

Implementation during Epidemic/Pandemic

It may be necessary for the school to continue to perform crisis response drills during an epidemic/pandemic crisis while managing social distancing during evacuation and at designated assembly locations. Students and staff will be instructed that during an actual emergency, evacuation, and safety are the first priorities and social distancing should be enforced only once students are outside any threatened structure or are and in a safe location. Modification of requirements and procedures for crisis response drills will be in accordance with guidance provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-222m
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-222n
 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-231

Policy adopted: October 11, 2000
Policy revised: June 10, 2015
Policy revised: April 11, 2018
Policy revised: December 9, 2020

Source: CABE