

PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Emergency Preparedness Summary

School level

- Each school in the district has an Emergency Response Plan that is reviewed and updated annually by the school Emergency Response Team. These plans include protocols for 30 potential hazards that could occur at a school.
- Evacuation and lockdown drills are practiced regularly with students. In addition, school and district Emergency Response Teams conduct tabletop exercises during the school year to rehearse and discuss a range of potential crisis scenarios. For more information visit the Tabletop Exercise module on the district Safe & Sound parent resource web page.
- Administrators, teachers and support staff members complete seven online emergency preparedness training modules each year. Modules are aligned to the school and district-level emergency plans and to classroom emergency flip charts. Two training modules are provided for parents on the district Safe & Sound web page.
- The Phoenix and Scottsdale Police and Fire departments have immediate access to all school emergency response plans, including locations of critical building and communications infrastructure, system operating information and maps for school site.

District level

- The District Emergency Response Team meets regularly to review, assess and update plans and protocols. The team comprises key district-level directors and coordinators whose departments provide immediate support to schools during a crisis.
- The district has an interoperability communication system in place, accessible by first responders, that allows for immediate communication between all district schools, sites and departments providing support to schools in a crisis.
- Assessing and improving school security is an ongoing activity at the district level, and is addressed through both facilities improvements and behavior protocols.
- School and district emergency response plans follow guidelines established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Members of the district Emergency Response Team are trained in NIMS and the national Incident Command System.
- The district actively partners with the Phoenix and Scottsdale Police and fire departments in the development and continuing assessment of school and district emergency response protocols. Other agencies involved in the development of our plans and participating in our training include the Maricopa County departments of Public Health and Sheriff's Office, Phoenix Emergency Management Department and Arizona Department of Education.

What parents can do

- Familiarize yourself with district emergency planning protocols by visiting the Safe & Sound web page.
- Ensure your child's school has current contact information for you and anyone authorized to serve as an emergency contact. Be sure to update your child's record when phone numbers or email addresses change.

12/15/12