



Five Minutes to ***Fire Safety***

Topic: Fire Drills and School Security II

In our last edition, we looked at school security and some suggestions to incorporate into fire drills that make a big difference in emergency situations. Here are some more suggestions:

Accountability

Once an emergency is underway and the evacuation is started, non-school people will swarm to the school property. It will be difficult to see individual classes and to differentiate teachers from other people. How can you easily tell which teachers and classes have all students accounted for and which classes are missing students or have extra students? Consider giving faculty members large green and red cards. After they have checked their roster, have them hold up the green card if they have all students accounted for. If students are missing, have them hold up the red card. If they have all their own students and extras that do not belong in their class, they hold up BOTH the red and green cards. Other administrators can then find these extra students and reunite them with their own classes.

Off-Site Refuges

Most schools have refuges established with churches, fire departments, or other buildings off school property. When's the last time the students were taken to these sites? Have you considered setting aside time to actually walk the children to these locations? In the event of an emergency, bussing children to off-site locations will be difficult because of responding vehicles, both emergency and parental. Busses may not even be able to get close to the school. Actually walk with the children to these refuge sites before the emergency so they know where these places are located.

It is hard to know how an emergency will impact you, your school staff and students, and your community until it happens. You may discover that the best pre-incident planning failed to take into account some major factor. These are just suggestions that may help keep track of students better in the event the unthinkable – whether fire-related or not – actually happens.



Kansas State Fire Marshal
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
Phone: 785-296-3401
Fax: 785-296-0151