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806 CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

[NOTE: The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (Commissioner) is required to maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035. School boards and charter schools must adopt a Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in their school districts or charter schools. Id. This Model Crisis Management Policy was originally the result of a collaborative effort among the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of Compliance and Assistance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Model Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation. Each school district should develop tailored building-specific crisis management plans for each school building in the school district, and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

The school district will, to the extent possible, engage in ongoing emergency planning within the school district and with emergency responders and other relevant community organizations. The school district will ensure that relevant emergency responders in the community have access to their building-specific crisis management plans and will provide training to school district staff to enable them to act appropriately in the event of a crisis.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The Policy and Plans

The school district's Crisis Management Policy has been created in consultation with local community response agencies and other appropriate individuals and groups that would likely be involved in the event of a school emergency. It is designed so that each building administrator can tailor a building-specific crisis management plan to meet that building's specific situation and needs.

The school district's administration and/or the administration of each building shall present tailored building-specific crisis management plans to the school board for review and approval. The building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis-specific procedures. Upon approval by the school board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated on an annual basis.

B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy

1. General Crisis Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing buildings, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. The Policy designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating their building-specific crisis management plans. A communication system will be in place to enable the designated individual to be contacted at all times in the event of a potential crisis, setting forth the method to contact the designated individual, the provision of at least two designees when the contact person is unavailable, and the method to convey contact information to the appropriate staff persons. The alternative designees may include members of the emergency first responder response team. A secondary method of communication should be included in the plan for use when the primary method of communication is inoperable. Each building in the school district will have access to a copy of the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) to assist in the development of building-specific crisis management plans.

All general crisis procedures will address specific procedures for the safe evacuation of children and employees with special needs such as physical, sensory, motor, developmental, and mental health challenges.

[NOTE: More specific information on planning for children with special needs can be found in the Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) and United States Department of Education's document entitled, "Practical Information on Crisis Planning, a Guide for Schools and Communities." A website link is provided in the resource section of this Policy.]

a. Lock-Down Procedures

Lock-down procedures will be used in situations where harm may result to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespass, disturbance, or when determined to be necessary by the building administrator or his or her designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Code words will not be used. Provisions for emergency evacuation will be maintained even in the event of a lock-down. Each building administrator will submit lock-down procedures for their building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

[NOTE: Minnesota law requires a minimum of five school lock-down drills each school year. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.]

b. Evacuation Procedures

Evacuations of classrooms and buildings—shall be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or his or her designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or

designee. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency situation. The evacuation procedures should include specific procedures for children with special needs, including children with limited mobility (wheelchairs, braces, crutches, etc.), visual impairments, hearing impairments, and other sensory, developmental, or mental health needs. The evacuation procedures should also address transporting necessary medications for students that take medications during the school day.

[NOTE: Minnesota law requires a minimum of five school fire drills, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.30, and one school tornado drill each school year. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.]

c. Sheltering Procedures

Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change based upon the specific emergency. The building administrator or his or her designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system. Each building administrator will submit sheltering procedures for his or her building as part of the building-specific crisis management plan.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has sample lock-down procedures, evacuation procedures, and sheltering procedures.]

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures

The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed to enable building administrators to tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) includes crisis-specific procedures.]

[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted permissive language stating that a school board “may adopt the model cardiac emergency response plan provided by” the Commissioner (as of June 4, 2024, a response plan is not yet available.)

3. School Emergency Response Teams

a. Composition

The building administrator in each school building will select a school emergency response team that will be trained to respond to emergency situations. All school emergency response team members will receive on-going training to carry out the building’s crisis management plans and will have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. For purposes of student safety and accountability, to the extent

possible, school emergency response team members will not have direct responsibility for the supervision of students. Team members must be willing to be actively involved in the resolution of crises and be available to assist in any crisis situation as deemed necessary by the building administrator. Each building will maintain a current list of school emergency response team members which will be updated annually. The building administrator, and his or her alternative designees, will know the location of that list in the event of a school emergency. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school district office, or in a secondary location in single building school districts.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition) has a sample School Emergency Response Team list.]

b. Leaders

The building administrator or his or her designee will serve as the leader of the school emergency response team and will be the primary contact for emergency response officials. In the event the primary designee is unavailable, the designee list should include more than one alternative designee and may include members of the emergency response team. When emergency response officials are present, they may elect to take command and control of the crisis. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and be available as necessary to emergency response officials.

III. PREPARATION BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

A. Communication

1. District Employees

Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they must be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff shall be aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan shall include the method and dates of dissemination of the plan to its staff. Employees will receive a copy of the relevant building-specific crisis management plans and shall receive periodic training on plan implementation.

2. Students and Parents

Students and parents shall be made aware of the school district's Crisis Management Policy and relevant tailored crisis management plans for each school building. Each school district's building-specific crisis management plan shall set forth how students and parents are made aware of the district and school-specific plans. Students shall receive specific instruction on plan implementation and shall participate in a required number of drills and practice sessions throughout the school year.

B. Planning and Preparing for Fire

1. Designate a safe area at least 50 feet away from the building to enable students

and staff to evacuate. The safe area should not interfere with emergency responders or responding vehicles and should not be in an area where evacuated persons are exposed to any products of combustion. (Depending on the wind direction, where the building on fire is located, the direction from which the fire is arriving, and the location of fire equipment, the distance may need to be extended.)

[NOTE: Evacuation areas at least 50 feet from school buildings are recommended but not mandated by statute or rule. Evacuation areas should be selected based on safety and the individual school site's proximity to streets, traffic patterns, and other hazards.]

2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan shall be available in appropriate areas of the building and shall identify the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas both inside and outside of the building. The facility diagram and site plan must identify the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs.
3. Teachers and staff will receive training on the location of the primary emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building. During fire drills, students and staff will practice evacuations using primary evacuation routes and alternate routes.
4. Certain employees, such as those who work in hazardous areas in the building, will receive training on the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment.
5. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances, e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies. State law requires a minimum of five fire drills each school year, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 299F.30. See Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.035.

[NOTE: The State Fire Marshal advises schools to defer fire drills during the winter months.]

6. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample fire drills schedule and log.]

7. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency sheltering and transportation as needed.
8. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions if safe to do so (e.g., switchboard, building engineer, etc.). The school district also will designate an administrator or his or her designee to meet local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample fire procedure form, evacuation/relocation and student reunification/release procedures, and planning for student reunification.]

C. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans

All school buildings will have a facility diagram and site plan that includes the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, and the location of fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots, and utility shut offs. All facility diagrams and site plans will be updated regularly and whenever a major change is made to a building. Facility diagrams and site plans will be maintained by the building administrator and will be easily accessible and on file in the school district office. Facility diagrams and site plans will be provided to first responders, such as fire and law enforcement personnel.

[NOTE: For single building school districts, such as charter schools, a secondary location for the diagrams and site plans will be included in the district's Crisis Management Policy and may include filing documents with a charter school sponsor, or compiling facility diagrams and site plans and distributing copies to first responders or sharing the documents with first responders during the crisis planning process.]

[NOTE: To the extent data contained in facility diagrams and site plans constitute security information pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.37, school districts are advised to consult with appropriate officials and/or legal counsel prior to dissemination of the facility diagrams or site plans to anyone other than first responders.]

D. Emergency Telephone Numbers

Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local, county, and state personnel who may be involved in a crisis situation. The list will include telephone numbers for local police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, county and state emergency management agencies, local public works departments, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency. A copy of this list will be kept on file in the school district office, or at a secondary location for single building school districts and will be updated annually.

School district employees will receive training on how to make emergency contacts, including 911 calls, when the school district's main telephone number and location is electronically conveyed to emergency personnel instead of the specific building in need of emergency services.

School district plans will set forth a process to internally communicate an emergency, using telephones in classrooms, intercom systems, or two-way radios, as well as the procedure to enable the staff to rapidly convey emergency information to a building designee. Each plan will identify a primary and secondary method of communication for both internal and secondary use. It is recommended that the plan include several methods of communication because computers, intercoms, telephones, and cell phones may not be operational or may be dangerous to use during an emergency.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Preparedness/Planning section, has a sample Emergency Phone Numbers list.]

E. Warning and Notification Systems

The school district shall maintain a warning system designed to inform students, staff,

and visitors of a crisis or emergency. This system shall be maintained on a regular basis under the maintenance plan for all school buildings. The school district should consider an alternate notification system to address the needs of staff and students with special needs, such as vision or hearing.

The building administrator shall be responsible for informing students and employees of the warning system and the means by which the system is used to identify a specific crisis or emergency situation. Each school's building-specific crisis management plan will include the method and frequency of dissemination of the warning system information to students and employees.

F. Early School Closure Procedures

The superintendent will make decisions about closing school or buildings as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will set forth the criteria for early school closure (e.g., weather-related, utility failure, or a crisis situation), will specify how closure decisions will be communicated to staff, students, families, and the school community (designated broadcast media, local authorities, e-mail, or district or school building web sites), and will discuss the factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or building.

Early school closure procedures also will include a reminder to parents and guardians to listen to designated local radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, provides universal procedures for severe weather shelter.]

G. Media Procedures

The superintendent has the authority and discretion to notify parents or guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The superintendent will designate a spokesperson who will notify the media in the event of a crisis or early school closure. The spokesperson shall receive training to ensure that the district is in strict compliance with federal and state law relative to the release of private data when conveying information to the media.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Response section, has a sample Media Procedures form.]

H. Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Procedures

Short-term behavioral health crisis intervention procedures will set forth the procedure for initiating behavioral health crisis intervention plans. The procedures will utilize available resources including the school psychologist, counselor, community behavioral health crisis intervention, or others in the community. Counseling procedures will be used whenever the superintendent or the building administrator determines it to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The behavioral health crisis intervention procedures shall include the following steps:

1. Administrator will meet with relevant persons, including school psychologists and counselors, to determine the level of intervention needed for students and staff.
2. Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.

3. Escort siblings and close friends of any victims as well as others in need of emotional support to the counseling areas.
4. Prohibit media from interviewing or questioning students or staff.
5. Provide follow-up services to students and staff who receive counseling.
6. Resume normal school routines as soon as possible.

I. Long-Term Recovery Intervention Procedures

Long-term recovery intervention procedures may involve both short-term and long-term recovery planning:

1. Physical/structural recovery.
2. Fiscal recovery.
3. Academic recovery.
4. Social/emotional recovery.

[NOTE: The Comprehensive School Safety Guide (2011 Edition), under the Recovery section, addresses the recovery components in more detail.]

IV. ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL

A. Definitions

1. "Active shooter drill" means an emergency preparedness drill designed to teach students, teachers, school personnel, and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school. An active shooter drill is not an active shooter simulation, nor may an active shooter drill include any sensorial components, activities, or elements which mimic a real life shooting.
2. "Active shooter simulation" means an emergency exercise including full-scale or functional exercises, designed to teach adult school personnel and staff how to respond in the event of an armed intruder on campus or an armed assailant in the immediate vicinity of the school which also incorporates sensorial components, activities, or elements mimicking a real life shooting. Activities or elements mimicking a real life shooting include, but are not limited to, simulation of tactical response by law enforcement. An active shooter simulation is not an active shooter drill.
3. "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that demonstrates any of the following:
 - a. a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on any of the following:
 - i. strong evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented experimental studies;

- ii. moderate evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented quasi-experimental studies; or
 - iii. promising evidence from one or more well designed and well implemented correlational studies with statistical controls for selection bias.
- b. a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that the program or practice is likely to improve relevant outcomes, including the ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program or practice.
- 4. "Full-scale exercise" means an operations-based exercise that is typically the most complex and resource-intensive of the exercise types and often involves multiple agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and real-time movement of resources.
- 5. "Functional exercises" means an operations-based exercise designed to assess and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment, however, movement of resources is usually simulated.

B. Criteria

An active shooter drill conducted according to Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.037 with students in early childhood through grade 12 must be:

- 1. accessible;
- 2. developmentally appropriate and age appropriate, including using appropriate safety language and vocabulary;
- 3. culturally aware;
- 4. trauma-informed; and
- 5. inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

C. Student Mental Health and Wellness

Active shooter drill protocols must include a reasonable amount of time immediately following the drill for teachers to debrief with their students. The opportunity to debrief must be provided to students before regular classroom activity may resume. During the debrief period, students must be allowed to access any mental health services available on campus, including counselors, school psychologists, social workers, or cultural liaisons. An active shooter drill must not be combined or conducted consecutively with any other type of emergency preparedness drill. An active shooter drill must be accompanied by an announcement prior to commencing. The announcement must use concise and age-appropriate language and, at a minimum, inform students there is no immediate danger to life and safety.

D. Notice

- 1. The school district must provide notice of a pending active shooter drill to every student's parent or legal guardian before an active shooter drill is conducted.

Whenever practicable, notice must be provided at least 24 hours in advance of a pending active shooter drill and inform the parent or legal guardian of the right to opt their student out of participating.

2. If a student is opted out of participating in an active shooter drill, no negative consequence must impact the student's general school attendance record nor may nonparticipation alone make a student ineligible to participate in or attend school activities.
3. The Commissioner must ensure the availability of alternative safety education for students who are opted out of participating or otherwise exempted from an active shooter drill. Alternative safety education must provide essential safety instruction through less sensorial safety training methods and must be appropriate for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, developmental or physical disabilities, mental health needs, and auditory or visual limitations.

E. Participation in Active Shooter Drills

Any student in early childhood through grade 12 must not be required to participate in an active shooter drill that does not meet the Criteria set forth above.

F. Active Shooter Simulations

A student must not be required to participate in an active shooter simulation. An active shooter simulation must not take place during regular school hours if a majority of students are present, or expected to be present, at the school. A parent or legal guardian of a student in grades 9 through 12 must have the opportunity to opt their student into participating in an active shooter simulation.

G. Violence Prevention

1. A school district or charter school conducting an active shooter drill must provide students in middle school and high school at least one hour, or one standard class period, of violence prevention training annually.
2. The violence prevention training must be evidence-based and may be delivered in-person, virtually, or digitally. Training must, at a minimum, teach students the following:
 - a. how to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual who may be at risk of harming oneself or others;
 - b. the importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and
 - c. the steps to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity, including providing information about the Department of Public Safety's statewide anonymous threat reporting system and any local threat reporting systems.

[NOTE: The Minnesota legislature enacted the addition to 2.c in 2025 (Session Law Chapter 35).]

3. A school district or charter school must ensure that students have the opportunity to contribute to their school's safety and violence prevention

planning, aligned with the recommendations for multihazard planning for schools, including but not limited to:

- a. student opportunities for leadership related to prevention and safety;
- b. encouragement and support to students in establishing clubs and programs focused on safety; and
- c. providing students with the opportunity to seek help from adults and to learn about prevention connected to topics including bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide.

H. Board Meeting

At a regularly scheduled school board meeting, a school board of a district that has conducted an active shooter drill must consider the following:

- 1. the effect of active shooter drills on the safety of students and staff; and
- 2. the effect of active shooter drills on the mental health and wellness of students and staff.

V. SAMPLE PROCEDURES INCLUDED IN THIS POLICY

Sample procedures for the various hazards/emergencies listed below are attached to this Policy for use when drafting specific crisis management plans. Additional sample procedures may be found in the Response section of the *Comprehensive School Safety Guide* (2011 Edition). After approval by the school board, an adopted procedure will become an addendum to the Crisis Management Policy.

- A. Fire
- B. Hazardous Materials
- C. Severe Weather: Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Flooding
- D. Medical Emergency
- E. Fight/Disturbance
- F. Assault
- G. Intruder
- H. Weapons
- I. Shooting
- J. Hostage
- K. Bomb Threat
- L. Chemical or Biological Threat
- M. Checklist for Telephone Threats

- N. Demonstration
- O. Suicide
- P. Lock-down Procedures
- Q. Shelter-In-Place Procedures
- R. Evacuation/Relocation
- S. Media Procedures
- T. Post-Crisis Procedures
- U. School Emergency Response Team
- V. Emergency Phone Numbers
- W. Highly Contagious Serious Illness or Pandemic Flu

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

A. Chemical Accidents

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents shall be posted at key locations such as chemistry labs, art rooms, swimming pool areas, and janitorial closets.

[NOTE: School buildings must maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) for all chemicals on campus. State law, federal law, and OSHA require that pertinent staff have access to M.S.D.S. in the event of a chemical accident.]

B. Visitors

The school district shall implement procedures mandating visitor sign in and visitors in school buildings. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites).

The school district shall implement procedures to minimize outside entry into school buildings except at designated check-in points and assure that all doors are locked prior to and after regular building hours.

C. Student Victims of Criminal Offenses at or on School Property

The school district shall establish procedures allowing student victims of criminal offenses on school property the opportunity to transfer to another school within the school district.

[NOTE: The Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 United States Code, section 6301, et seq.; Title IX, 20 United States Code, section 1681, et seq.; and the Unsafe School Choice Option, 20 United States Code, section 7912, require school districts to establish such transfer procedures.]

D. Radiological Emergencies at Nuclear Generating Plants [OPTIONAL]

School districts within a 10-mile radius of the Monticello or Prairie Island nuclear power plants will implement crisis plans in the event of an accident or incident at the power plant.

Questions relative to the creation or implementation of such plans will be directed to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 12A (Natural Disaster; State Assistance)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.038 (Students Safe at School)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School; Doors and Exits)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.02, Subd. 6 (Powers)
Minn. Stat. § 326B.106 (General Powers of Commissioner of Labor and Industry)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses)
Minn. Rules Ch. 7511 (Fire Code)
20 U.S.C. § 1681, *et seq.* (Title IX)
20 U.S.C. § 6301, *et seq.* (Every Student Succeeds Act)
20 U.S.C. § 7912 (Unsafe School Choice Option)
42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 532 (Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites)
Comprehensive School Safety Guide
[Minnesota School Safety Center - Resources \(mn.gov\)](https://mn.gov/school-safety-center/resources)

Resources: I Love U Guys Foundation, *Standard Response Protocol*
<https://iloveuguysschools.org/The-Standard-Response-Protocol.html> (012325)

Safe and Sound Schools
<https://safeandsoundschools.org/> (012325)

Model Policy 806: Crisis Management Plan

FOR ASSISTANCE IN DRAFTING A CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resources are available to assist school districts in drafting a Crisis Management Policy and/or building-specific crisis management plans. Please contact any of the organizations listed below for assistance:

A. Minnesota Department of Public Safety School Safety Center

HSEM Comprehensive School Safety Guide

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/mn-school-safety-center/Documents/2011%20Comprehensive%20School%20Safety%20Guide.Jan%202014%20Appendix%20update.pdf>

Comprehensive school safety guide

The Minnesota Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management offers valuable guidance for school emergency planning. While the MnSSC Comprehensive School Safety Guide is being updated, we encourage you to explore resources from our partners at SchoolSafety.gov. Their [Foundation Elements of School Safety](#) can serve as a helpful framework for your planning efforts

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
444 Minnesota Street, Suite 223
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-201-7400
<https://dps.mn.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

B. Minnesota Department of Education

Division of Special Education Compliance and Assistance
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
651-582-8710
www.education.state.mn.us email: mde.compliance-assistance@state.mn.us

C. Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division

444 Minnesota Street, Suite 145
St. Paul, MN 55101-5145
651-201-7200
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/Pages/default.aspx>

D. Minnesota School Boards Association

1900 West Jefferson Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082-3015
800-324-4459
507-934-2450
www.mnmsba.org

OTHER RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

U.S. Department of Education

Readiness and Emergency Management (REMS) Technical Assistance Center

<https://rems.ed.gov>

Ready.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/>

ReadyKids.gov: <https://www.ready.gov/kids>

Practical Information on Crisis Planning:

<https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/crisisplanning.pdf>

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency: What to Do – Bomb Threat

<https://www.cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat>

National School Safety and Security Services

<https://schoolsecurity.org/>

Your local emergency response agencies (law enforcement, fire, emergency management) can also assess your building and situation, suggest changes, and assist in drafting building-specific crisis management/emergency plans.

FIRE

In the event of a fire, smoke from a fire or detection of a gas odor

- Pull fire alarm and notify building occupants by means of _____

- Evacuate students and staff to the designated areas.
 - These areas should be a safe distance away from emergency personnel.
 - Be aware of the arrival of emergency responders. See map of evacuation routes and assembly areas located _____

(or included in this manual on next page)
- Follow primary fire drill route whenever possible. Follow alternate route if primary route is blocked or dangerous. See map, located _____

- (or included in this manual on next page)

 - Teachers take class roster.
 - Teachers take attendance after evacuation.
 - Teachers report missing students to building administrator immediately.
- If trapped by fire, go to **Shelter-in-Place Procedures**.

Building administrator

- Building administrator notifies fire department (call **911**) and superintendent.
- Building administrator or designee meets with emergency officials as soon as possible.
- After consulting with appropriate official, building administrator may move students to primary relocation center at _____ if weather is inclement or building is damaged.
- **Do not** reenter buildings until they are declared safe by fire or law enforcement personnel.
- Building administrator notifies staff and students of termination of emergency.

Fire drills should be held at varied times during the school day.

Practice both primary and alternate routes.

Extra staffing is necessary for students with special medical or physical needs.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Incident occurs in school

- Notify building administrator/office.
- Call **911**. If the type and/or location of hazardous material is known, report that information to 911.
- Evacuate to an upwind location, taking class roster. Teachers take attendance after evacuation.
- Seal off area of leak/spill. Close doors.
- Fire officer in charge will determine additional shelter-in-place or evacuation actions.
- Shut off heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in contaminated area to reduce the spread of contamination.
- Building administrator notifies superintendent.
- Notify parents/guardians if students are evacuated, according to district policy and/or guidance.
- Resume normal operations when fire officials approve.

Incident occurs near school property

- Fire or law enforcement will notify school officials.
- Consider closing outside air intake, evacuating students to a safe area, or sheltering students inside the building until emergency passes or relocation is necessary.
- Fire officer in charge of scene will instruct school officials on the need for sheltering or evacuation.
- Follow procedures for sheltering or evacuation.
- If evacuating, teachers take class rosters and take attendance after evacuation.
- If evacuation is not ordered, be aware of and remain alert for any change in health conditions of students and staff, especially respiratory problems. Seek medical attention if necessary.
- Notify parents/guardians if students are evacuated, according to district policy and/or guidance.
- Resume normal operations when fire officials approve.

Extra staffing is necessary for students with special medical and/or physical needs.

SEVERE WEATHER

TORNADO/SEVERE THUNDERSTORM/FLOODING

Tornado/severe thunderstorm WATCH has been issued in an area near school

- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (National Weather Service) or emergency alert radio stations.
- Bring all persons inside building(s).
- Close windows.
- Review tornado drill procedures and location of safe areas.

Tornado safe areas are interior hallways or rooms away from exterior walls and windows and away from large rooms with long-span ceilings.

- Review "drop and tuck" procedures with students.

Tornado/severe thunderstorm WARNING has been issued in an area near school, or a tornado has been spotted near school

- Move students and staff to safe areas.
- Close classroom doors.
- Teachers take class rosters.
- Ensure that students are in "tuck" positions.
- Teachers take attendance.
- Remain in safe area until warning expires or emergency personnel have issued an all-clear signal.

Post diagrams in each classroom showing routes to areas. Attach a building diagram showing safe areas.

Flooding

- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards and emergency alert radio stations. Stay in contact with emergency management officials.
- Review evacuation procedures with staff.
- Check relocation centers. Find an alternate relocation center if primary and secondary centers would also be flooded.
- Check transportation resources.
- If district officials and emergency responders advise evacuation, do so immediately.
- Teachers take class rosters.
- Teachers take attendance.
- Notify parents/guardians according to district policy.

Refer to Severe Weather Awareness Week postings at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx> for further information on severe weather safety.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Life-threatening injury or illness, or death

- Notify office staff/building administrator to make emergency calls. If unable to reach office immediately, call **911. Work as a team.**
- Give full attention to the victim(s).
- Do not attempt to move a person who is ill or injured unless he/she is in immediate danger of further injury.
- If possible, isolate the affected student/staff member. Disperse onlookers and keep others from congregating in the area.
- Check breathing. Is the airway clear? Is the victim in a position to facilitate breathing?
- Help stop bleeding.
 - Applying pressure on wound or elevating wound may help stop or slow bleeding.
 - Protect yourself from body fluids. Use gloves if available.
- Check for vital signs. Initiate first aid, if you are trained.
- Comfort the victim(s) and offer reassurance that medical attention is on the way.
- After immediate medical needs have been cared for, remain to assist emergency medical services personnel with pertinent information about the incident.

Non-life-threatening injury or illness

- For all non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, call the office/nurse.

Administrator

- In case of traumatic medical emergency or death at school:
 - Notify superintendent.
 - Notify victim's parents, guardians, or family.
 - Activate post-crisis procedures, if necessary.
- In all other medical emergencies, assess individual's need for post-crisis intervention.

FIGHT/DISTURBANCE

- Ensure the safety of students and staff first.
- Notify building administrator/security/law enforcement. **Work as a team**, especially when separating participants.
- Don't let a crowd incite participants. Disperse onlookers and keep others from congregating in the area.
- When participants are separated, do not allow further visual or verbal contact.
- Document all activities witnessed by staff.
- Deal with event according to school's discipline policy.
- Building administrator notifies parents/guardians of students involved in fight. Superintendent and police may be notified as necessary, or as indicated by school policy.
- Assess counseling needs of participants and witnesses. Implement post-crisis procedures as needed.

*For fights or disturbances that elevate to possible assault level, refer to **Assault** guidance.*

ASSAULT

- Ensure the safety of students and staff first.
- Notify building administrator. **Work as a team.**
- Notify law enforcement if circumstances lead you to believe that criminal activity is involved, e.g., if a weapon is used, if there has been a sexual assault or there is a physical injury that causes substantial pain.
- Seal off area to preserve evidence and disperse onlookers.
- If victim requires medical attention, follow **Medical Emergency** procedures.
- **Do not leave the victim alone.**
- Notify parents/guardians and superintendent per district policy.
- Document all activities witnessed by staff.
- Assess counseling needs and implement post-crisis procedures as needed.

INTRUDER

Intruder – an unauthorized person who enters school property

Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4, gives a school building administrator authority to have persons removed from school property as trespassers if they are not authorized to be there.

- Politely greet intruder and identify yourself.
 - Consider asking another staff person to accompany you before approaching intruder.
- Inform intruder that all visitors must register at the main office.
 - Ask intruder the purpose of his/her visit. If possible, attempt to identify the individual and/or vehicle.
- If intruder's purpose is not legitimate, ask him/her to leave. Accompany intruder to exit.
- Notify building administrator or law enforcement.

If intruder refuses to leave

- Notify building administrator and law enforcement if intruder refuses to leave. Give law enforcement full description of intruder.
- Back away from intruder if he/she indicates a potential for violence. Allow an avenue of escape. To the extent possible, maintain visual contact.
 - Be aware of intruder's actions at this time (where he/she is located in school building, whether he/she is carrying a weapon or package, etc.).
 - Maintaining visual contact and knowing the location of the intruder is less disruptive than doing a building-wide search later.

Should the situation escalate quickly, the building administrator may decide at any time to initiate lockdown procedures.

Note: To assist staff members who interact with a stranger at school, use the "I CAN" rule.

Intercept
Contact
Ask
Notify

WEAPONS

Staff or students who are aware of a weapon brought to school

- Immediately notify building administrator, teacher or law enforcement.
 - Give the following information:
 - Name of person suspected of bringing the weapon.
 - Location of the weapon.
 - Whether the suspect has threatened anyone.
 - Any other details that may prevent the suspect from hurting someone or himself/herself.
- Teachers who suspect that a weapon is in the classroom: STAY CALM.
 - Do not call attention to the weapon.
 - Notify the building administrator, the school resource officer or a neighboring teacher as soon as possible.
 - Teacher should not leave the classroom.

Building administrator

- Call law enforcement to report that a weapon is suspected in school.
- Ask another administrator or a law enforcement officer to participate in questioning the suspected student or staff member.
 - Consider the best time and place to approach the person, taking into account these factors if possible:
 - Need for assistance from law enforcement.
 - Type of weapon.
 - Safety of persons in the area.
 - State of mind of the suspected person.
 - Accessibility of the weapon.
- Separate student/staff member from weapon, if possible.
- If the suspect threatens you with the weapon, DO NOT try to disarm him/her. Back away with your hands up. STAY CALM.
- Follow district procedures if you need to conduct a weapons search.
- Document all activities related to a weapons incident according to reporting requirements of the district and Minnesota Statutes.
- If the suspect is a student, notify parent(s)/guardian(s) according to district policy.

ACTIVE SHOOTER

If a person displays a firearm or begins shooting

- Move to or seek safe shelter. Go to lockdown procedures.
- Notify building administrator/law enforcement.
- Call **911**.

If you hear gunshots

- If possible, determine where shooting is taking place.
- Seek safe shelter.
 - If outside, stay as low to the ground as possible, and find any kind of cover.
 - If inside, go to lockdown procedures.
- Teachers take attendance and notify the building administrator of missing students or staff as soon as it is safe to do so.

Building administrator/school resource officer/security/law enforcement

- Building administrator may order lockdown procedures.
- Assess the situation as to:
 - The shooter's location.
 - Injuries.
 - Potential for additional shooting.
- Call **911** and give as much detail as possible about the situation.
- Secure the school, if appropriate.
- Help students and staff find safe shelter.
- Care for the injured *if it is safe to do so* until emergency responders arrive. Do not add to the victim list by exposing yourself to danger.
- Notify superintendent's office.
- Refer media to district spokesperson per media procedures.
- Initiate post-crisis procedures.

Work with local law enforcement to identify their response methods and capabilities. Provide them with updated building diagrams.

HOSTAGE

Witness to a hostage situation

If the hostage-taker is unaware of your presence, DO NOT INTERVENE!

- Notify building administrator. Building administrator may wish to initiate lockdown procedures or evacuation.
- Call **911**. Give dispatcher details of situation.
- Seal off area near hostage scene.
- Police will take control of hostage scene; building administrator coordinates with police for safety and welfare of students and staff.
- Document all activities.

If taken hostage

- Cooperate with hostage-taker to the fullest extent possible.
- Try not to panic. Calm students if they are present.
- Treat the hostage-taker as normally as possible.
- Be respectful to the hostage-taker.
- Ask permission to speak; do not argue or make suggestions.

BOMB THREAT

Critical information

- Schools are responsible for assessing bomb threats to determine credibility.
- All bomb threats must be taken seriously until they are assessed.
- The decision whether or not to evacuate rests with the **school**, not the responding agencies, unless a device is located.

Procedures upon receiving a bomb threat

By phone call

- Complete the *Checklist for Telephone Threats*.

By written note

- Preserve evidence.
- Place note in plastic bag, if available.
- Photograph words written on walls.
- Notify building administrator or designee.
- Notify law enforcement.
- Building administrator orders evacuation or other actions according to threat assessment and school policy.

Caution: Overreacting may encourage additional threats.

Scanning process considerations

- Scan classrooms and common areas for suspicious items. Scans should be made by people who are familiar with the building. Assign staff to certain areas of the building. Keep in mind that a bomb could be placed *anywhere* on school property – inside or outside.
- Any suspicious devices, packages, etc., should be pointed out to emergency responders. **Do not touch.**
- Once a device is located, emergency responders take responsibility for it.

Evacuation considerations

- If a decision is made to evacuate, notify staff via phone system, hardwired PA system or by messenger. **Do not use cell phones, radios or fire alarm system** because of risk of activating a device.
- While notification is being made, other staff should survey the grounds to clear exits and areas where students and staff will be going. Exit routes should be altered accordingly if the location of the device is known.
- When evacuating, leave everything as-is. Leave room doors unlocked. Teachers take class roster.

*Bomb squads generally will **not** search a building unless a suspicious package has been located.*

CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL THREAT

If a telephone threat references a chemical or biological device or package, complete the *Checklist for Telephone Threats* procedures and refer to safety procedures in *Bomb Threat* and *Hazardous Materials* sections.

This page addresses receiving, by mail or delivery service, a suspicious letter or package that might be a chemical or biological threat.

When sorting mail or receiving delivered packages

- Look for characteristics that make you suspicious of the content.
 - excessive postage, excessive weight
 - misspellings of common words
 - oily stains, discolorations, odor
 - no return address or showing a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address
 - package not anticipated by someone in the school or not sent by a known school vendor

If a letter/package is opened and contains a written threat by no suspicious substance

- Notify building administrator and law enforcement.
- Limit access to the area in which the letter/package was opened to minimize the number of people who might directly handle it. It is considered criminal evidence.
- Ask the person who discovered/opened the letter or package to place it into another container, such as a plastic bag.
- Turn the letter/package over to law enforcement. Document all activities.

If a letter or package is opened and contains some type of suspicious substance

- Notify building administrator and law enforcement.
- Isolate the people who have been exposed to the substance. The goal here is to prevent/minimize spreading contamination.
- Limit access to the area in which the letter/package was opened.
- Ask the person who discovered/opened the letter/package to place it into another container, such as a clear plastic zip-lock bag. Handle with gloves if possible.
- Emergency officials will determine the need for decontamination of the area and the people exposed to the substance.

Building administrator

- Building administrator and emergency officials determine whether evacuation is necessary.
- Building administrator notifies superintendent. Notification is made to parents/guardians, according to district policies.
- Implement post-crisis procedures as necessary.

Consider having gloves and zip-lock bags available at mail sorting areas.

CHECKLIST FOR TELEPHONE THREATS

If you receive a telephone threat (bomb/chemical/other):

- **Remain calm**
- **Do not hang up. Keep the caller on the line as long as possible and listen carefully.**

Ask the following questions

- Where is the bomb/chemical or other hazard?
- When will it explode/be activated?
- What does it look like?
- What kind of bomb/hazard is it?
- What will cause it to explode/activate?
- What is your name?
- Did you place the bomb/hazard? WHY?
- Where are you?

Exact wording of the threat: _____

If voice is familiar, who did it sound like? _____

Caller ID information:

male	female	adult	juvenile	age
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Call origin:

local	long distance	internal	cell phone
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Caller's voice: Note pattern of speech, type of voice, tone. Check all that apply.

Calm	Excited	Loud	Soft	Deep	Nasal
Raspy	Distinct	Slurred	Normal	Crying	Laughter
Slow	Rapid	Disguised	Accent	Lisp	Stutter
Drunken	Familiar	Incoherent	Deep breathing		

Background sounds: Check all that apply.

Voices	Airplanes	Street noises	Trains	Quiet	Bells
Clear	Static	Animals	Party	Vehicles	
Horns	House noises	PA system	Music	Factory machines	
Motor	Phone booth	Other:			

Threat language: Check all that apply.

Well-spoken (educated)	Foul	Taped	Incoherent	Irrational	Message read from script
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Did caller indicate knowledge of the building? Give specifics: _____

Person receiving call: _____ Phone number where call received: _____

LEAVE YOUR PHONE OFF THE HOOK. DO NOT HANG UP AFTER CALLER HANGS UP.

DEMONSTRATION

If demonstrators are near but not on school property

- Building administrator notifies staff and superintendent's office.
- Monitor situation. Notify law enforcement if necessary.

If demonstrators are on school property

- Ensure safety of students and staff, particularly safe entry into and exit from the building.
- Building administrator notifies staff and superintendent's office.
- Building administrator asks demonstrators to leave school property. Warn them that they are violating the state trespass statute. Notify law enforcement if necessary.
 - *If demonstrators leave*, continue to monitor the situation.
 - *If demonstrators do not leave*, notify law enforcement. Building administrator may initiate "lockdown with warning." (**See Lockdown Procedures**)

SUICIDE

Suicide threat

- Consider any student reference to suicide as serious.
- Do not leave the student alone.
- Notify the school counselor, social worker, psychologist, or building administrator immediately.
- Stay with the student until suicide intervention staff arrives.
- Do not allow the student to leave school without parent, guardian, or other appropriate adult supervision.

Suicide attempt in school

- Notify building administrator, school nurse, or other appropriate professional staff.
- Call **911** if the person needs medical attention, has a weapon, needs to be restrained, or parent/guardian cannot be reached.
- Try to calm the suicidal person.
- Stay with the suicidal person until suicide intervention staff arrives.
- Isolate the suicidal person or the area, if possible.
- Initiate first aid.
- Do not allow the student to leave school without parent, guardian, or other appropriate adult supervision.

Building administrator

- Call parent(s) or guardian(s) if the suicidal person is a student.
- Call family or emergency contact if suicidal person is a staff member.
- Notify superintendent or appropriate district level administrator.
- Work with district public information officer.
- Implement post-crisis procedures.

LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

One means of securing the school is to implement lockdown procedures. These procedures may be called for in the following instances:

- 1) **Lockdown with warning** – The threat is outside of the school building. The school may have been notified of a potential threat outside of the building.
- 2) **Lockdown with intruder** – The threat/intruder is inside the building.

Lockdown with warning procedures

- Building administrator will order and announce "lockdown with warning" procedures. Repeat announcement several times. Be direct. Code words lead to confusion.
- Bring people inside.
- Lock exterior doors.
- Clear hallways, restrooms, and other rooms that cannot be secured.
- Pull shades. Keep students away from windows.
- Control all movement, but continue classes. Disable bells. Move on announcement only.
- Building administrator will announce "all clear."

Lockdown with intruder procedures (these actions happen rapidly)

- Building administrator will order and announce "lockdown with intruder." Repeat announcement several times. Be direct. Code words lead to confusion.
- Immediately direct all students, staff and visitors into nearest classroom or secured space. Classes that are outside of the building SHOULD NOT enter the building. Move outside classes to primary evacuation site.
- Lock classroom doors.
- DO NOT lock exterior doors.
- Move people away from windows and doors. Turn off lights.
- DO NOT respond to anyone at the door until "all clear" is announced.
- Keep out of sight.
- Building administrator will announce "all clear."

Some other threats may override lockdown, i.e., confirmed fire, intruder in classroom, etc. Consider making an action plan for people in large common areas, i.e., cafeteria, gymnasium.

Lockdown may be initiated in non-threatening circumstances to keep people away from areas where there may be a medical emergency or disturbance.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURES

Sheltering in place provides refuge for students, staff and the public inside the school building during an emergency. Shelters are located in areas of the building that maximize the safety of inhabitants.

Sheltering in place is used when evacuation would put people at risk (i.e., tornado, environmental hazard, blocked evacuation route).

Shelter areas may change depending on the emergency

- Identify safe areas in each school building.
- Building administrator announces that students and staff must go to shelter areas.
- Bring all persons inside building(s).
- Teachers take class rosters.
- Close all exterior doors and windows, if appropriate.
- Turn off ventilation leading outdoors, if appropriate.
- Teachers account for all students after arriving in shelter area.
- All persons remain in shelter areas until a building administrator or emergency responder declares that it is safe to leave.

If all evacuation routes are blocked

- Stay in room and close door.
- Keep air as clean as possible.
 - Seal door.
 - Open or close windows as appropriate.
 - Limit movement and talking in room.
- Communicate your situation to administration or emergency officials by whatever means possible.

EVACUATION/RELOCATION

Evacuation

- Building administrator initiates evacuation procedures.
- Evacuation routes may be specified according to the type of emergency. They may need to be changed for safety reasons.
 - Bombs: Building administrator notifies staff of evacuation route dictated by known or suspected location of device.
 - Fire: Follow primary routes unless blocked by smoke or fire. Know the alternate route.
 - Chemical spill: Total avoidance of hazardous materials is necessary as fumes can overcome people in seconds. Plan route accordingly.
- Teachers take class rosters.
- Do not lock classroom doors when leaving.
- When outside the building, account for all students. Immediately inform building administrator of any missing student(s).

Relocation

- Building administrator determines whether students and staff should be evacuated to a relocation center.
- Building administrator or school emergency response team designee notifies relocation center.
- If necessary, a school emergency response team designee coordinates transportation to relocation center.
- Teachers stay with class en route to the relocation center and take attendance upon arriving at the center.
- Use student release forms for students who are picked up from a relocation center.
- Notify superintendent's office and district public information office of relocation center address.

Relocation centers:

List primary and secondary student relocation centers. The primary site is usually located close to the school. The secondary site is usually located farther away. Include maps and written directions to centers for staff reference.

Primary Relocation Center: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Secondary Relocation Center: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

MEDIA PROCEDURES

All staff must refer media contacts to district spokesperson. The school district, in coordination with assisting agencies, assumes responsibility for issuing public statements during an emergency.

- Superintendent serves as district spokesperson unless he/she designates a spokesperson. If spokesperson is unavailable, an alternate assumes responsibilities.

District spokesperson: _____ Name

Contact number(s)

Alternate spokesperson: _____ Name

Contact number(s)

Consider pre-designating site spokespersons.

- District Public Information (PI) person helps district spokesperson coordinate media communications.

District PI: _____ Name

Contact number

Alternate PI: _____ Name

Contact number

Media checklist

- Building administrator relays all factual information to superintendent and public information person.
- Establish a media information center away from the affected area. Consider:
 - Media need timely and accurate information. However, protect the privacy of staff and students when necessary and justified.
 - Media will want to be close enough to shoot video footage and photographs, but they should not be allowed to hinder responders.
- Before holding a news conference, brief the participants and coordinate information.
 - Determine the message you want to convey. Create key messages for target audiences: parents, students, and the community.
 - Emphasize the safety of students and staff.
 - Engage media to help distribute important public information. Explain how the emergency is being handled.
 - Respect privacy of victims and families of victims. Do not release names to media.
- Update media regularly. DO NOT say "No comment." Ask other agencies to assist with media.
- Maintain log of all telephone inquiries for future use.

POST-CRISIS INTERVENTION PROCEDURES

- Assess the situation to determine the need for post-crisis interventions for staff, students, and families.
- Provide post-crisis briefings for staff, students, and families as appropriate.
- Re-establish school and classroom routine as quickly as possible.
- Consider interventions:
 - Defusing – Provide defusing sessions for students and staff as quickly as possible after the emergency.
Defusings are brief conversations with individuals or small groups held soon after an incident to help people better understand and cope with the effects of the incident.
Defusing should be conducted by trained individuals.
 - Debriefing – Conduct critical-incident stress debriefing (CISD) three to four days after the emergency.
CISD is a formal group discussion designed to help people understand their reactions to the stress of an event and to give referral information. It must be modified for student's development level. **CISD should only be conducted by trained professionals.**
 - Counseling – Provide grief counseling.
- Provide on-going support as necessary for staff, students and families.
 - Monitor and support staff.
 - Provide ongoing opportunities for children to talk about their fears and concerns. They may have more questions as time passes.
 - Identify and monitor at-risk students.
 - Provide individual crisis or grief counseling, if necessary.
 - Conduct outreach to homes.
 - Provide follow-up referral for assessment and treatment, if necessary.

The district should identify a 24-hour contact person or agency responsible for post-crisis assessment and interventions.

In the event of a tragic, highly publicized event, mental health professionals from federal, state and non-government agencies may respond to offer post-crisis aid. Effective coordination is critical. Consult with the Minnesota Department of Education for support, advice and assistance in coordinating the activities of outside entities.

SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Build the school's emergency response team with people who can perform the functions identified below. Backup personnel should be assigned to each function, and key personnel should be cross-trained in critical requirements of the functions. Staff members who are not responsible for students should fill as many of the functions as possible. **Depending on the emergency, one person may be able to perform multiple assignments.**

See next page for descriptions of emergency response team functions.

Function	Staff Assigned	Backup Staff
Incident Commander (person in charge)		
Safety		
Public Information		
Liaison		
Operations Chief		
Medical		
(attach list of qualified first-aid/CPR responders in building)		
Site Security/ Facility Check		
Student Release Coordinator		
Logistics Chief		
Communications		
Transportation		
Planning Chief		
Financial/ Recordkeeping		
<i>These functions mirror the National Incident Management System (NIMS) used by emergency responders.</i>		

SCHOOL RESPONSE TEAM FUNCTIONS

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is intended for use by all state and federal agencies when responding to emergencies. The system provides integrated and coordinated management guidelines for all types of disasters and emergencies.

Most functions necessary for emergency response in the community are also necessary for emergencies within the schools. Incident management functions below are described in the context of a school setting.

Incident Commander (person in charge)	Activates school's emergency response plan; assesses the threat; orders protective measures such as lockdown, evacuation or shelter-in-place; notifies district authorities and provides situation updates; requests resources.
Safety	Responsible for safety and security of the site; stops operations if conditions become unsafe.
Public Information	May be designated site spokesperson; cooperates with the district and other agencies on joint news releases; coordinates media briefings as necessary.
Liaison	Contact person for outside agencies; may represent school/district at city emergency operations center or at emergency responders' on-scene command post.
Operations Chief	Directs actions, i.e., lockdown, evacuation, site security, release of students to parents/guardians, first aid or medical care, cleanup, control of utilities.
Medical	Provides for first aid or other medical care; coordinates with emergency medical services personnel as necessary; activates school's first aid/CPR responders.
Site Security/Facility Check	Responsible for seeing that the school building and grounds are visually inspected and secured.
Student Release Coordinator	Responsible for implementing school's plan for release of students to parents/guardians from relocation site; takes necessary documents to relocation site.
Logistics Chief	Estimates logistical needs; gets personnel, facilities (relocation sites), services, and materials to support operations.
Communications	Responsible for emergency communications systems and equipment; may act as lead or hub for internal communications response.
Transportation	Responsible for arranging transportation for emergency relocations and early dismissal of school; keeps current contact list of transportation providers.
Planning Chief	Assists in assessing emergencies; establishes priorities, identifies issues and prepares an action plan with incident commander.
Financial/Recordkeeping	Manages financial aspects of an emergency; compiles record of expenditures; tracks injuries and lost or damaged property; coordinates with district for insurance; initiates business recovery efforts.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Fire/Ambulance/Police

Emergency-911

Dispatch Center:
(for local police, fire and emergency medical services)

Public Utilities

Electricity: Company
 Contact person
 24-hour emergency number(s)

Gas: Company
 Contact person
 24-hour emergency number(s)

Water: Company
 Contact person
 24-hour emergency number(s)

Emergency Management Agencies

Local emergency management director:

Name
Telephone

County emergency management director:

Name
Telephone

Referrals

Hazardous Materials: Report hazardous materials leaks or spills to Minnesota Duty Officer
24-hour numbers Statewide (800) 422-0798 Metro area (651) 649-5451

Poison Control Center

Crime Victim Services

Post-Crisis Intervention/Mental Health Hotline

[Note: These procedures are provided as a sample and a starting place for your schools to begin planning for a situation like a pandemic. A pandemic policy is not legally required.]

HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS SERIOUS ILLNESS OR PANDEMIC FLU

- The school district may provide information on the proper methods for hand washing, covering coughs, and social distancing. Reminders of these methods may be placed throughout the school district's buildings.
- Children and staff should be asked to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently. All classroom surfaces should be disinfected according to guidance from health officials.
- If a case of highly contagious serious illness is suspected, the sick student, employee, or visitor should be immediately sent home. If that is not possible, the person should be isolated, as much as possible, until arrangements can be made for the person to leave the school.
- If a serious illness is confirmed, the local health agency should be notified and communication efforts initiated. See ***Emergency Phone Numbers*** and ***Media Procedures***.
- In the absence of a school closure order from a state agency, the superintendent, in consultation with the school board, will determine when to close school due to significant risk of spreading the illness. See ***Early School Closure Procedures, Part III.F.***, especially if school is closed before the end of a school day.
- If an extended school closure is ordered, the school district may make online learning or other at home learning options available to the extent feasible.
- Any closed school buildings should be disinfected according to guidance from health officials before reopening.