

DROP QUIZ: IS YOUR SCHOOL READY?

How well would your school respond to a disaster? How would people respond in the first few minutes? In the first few hours? Do people know what to do? Schools and communities in North Dakota face all kinds of potential hazards, both natural (winter storms, tornadoes, fires, floods) and man-made (hazardous material spills, acts of violence or terrorism). Being prepared to address such hazards requires thorough and comprehensive planning. How ready are you? Take this test to find out!

1. Does your school have an emergency response plan?
2. Did the plan result from a hazard analysis and does it address multiple hazards, not just fire?
3. Does the plan include mitigating potential disasters?
4. Does the plan include responding to disasters?
5. Does the plan include recovering from disasters?
6. Was the plan developed in cooperation with local emergency responders (i.e., fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, emergency manager)?
7. Does the plan include an Incident Command system?
8. Have incident command responsibilities been assigned along with back-up responsibilities?
9. Does the plan include a system of accountability for all students and adults in the building?
10. Does the plan include a system for releasing children to their parents?
11. Does the plan include both primary and secondary evacuation routes?
12. Is the plan practiced through regular drills and exercises?
13. Are emergency responders ever included in drills and practice exercises?
14. Are both evacuation and reverse-evacuation drills practiced?
15. Does the plan include assembly areas both on and off campus?
16. Are shelter-in-place drills practiced?
17. Are lock-down drills practiced?
18. During evacuation drills, are exits sometimes blocked to test secondary evacuation route systems?
19. During drills, are student accountability systems tested?
20. Are systems for evacuation during cold weather ever tested?
21. Does the plan include a system for regular review and updating?
22. Do you know where the plan is located?
23. Has the plan been reviewed with the professional and support staff as well as local emergency manager?
24. Do you know the name of the Emergency Manager for your jurisdiction?
25. Are you aware of the Century Code dealing with school safety? (15.1-06-09 through 13)

If you were able to respond **YES** to all of these questions, congratulations, your school is probably well prepared to respond to almost any type of disaster. Obviously, any **NO** or **NOT SURE** responses point to areas where present plans and systems might be improved. If you had more than five **NO** responses, your school quite likely would face serious problems in the event of a real disaster.

ND LEAD Center ND Emergency Services



Multi-Hazard School Safety Planning



The Need for the Multi-Hazard School Safety Planning Course

Surveys of schools often reveal a number of common problems regarding emergency response plans: 1) Plans are developed in isolation from the emergency response community. 2) Plans are vague and responsibilities are not clearly defined. 3) School personnel are not aware of or do not understand the plans. 4) Plans are not practiced appropriately.

School leaders have a legal and moral obligation to make schools as safe as possible for children and to minimize potential harm in the event of emergencies and disasters. Planning and preparation are key to meeting this obligation.

Course Goal

The goal of the Multi-Hazard School Safety Planning course is to provide emergency planning guidance to the people responsible for developing or maintaining an effective multi-hazard school safety program.

Key Course Concepts

- Hazard Analysis
- Hazard Mitigation
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning
- Incident Command System
- Exercising/Testing Plans
- Disaster Recovery
- Coping with Disaster
- Linking School and Community Plans

Target Audience

Anyone who is responsible for any aspect of school safety, especially those involved in the development, implementation, evaluation, or administration of the school safety program, will benefit from the training course. The school emergency planning team might include:

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| • School Administrators | • Emergency Mgt. Personnel |
| • Teachers | • Fire Department Personnel |
| • Counselors | • Law Enforcement Personnel |
| • School Support Staff: Head Custodian, Head Secretary | • Emergency Medical Service Personnel |
| • School Board Members | • Transportation Coordinators |
| • Parents | • Volunteer Agency Personnel |

Course Scheduling

The course is conducted at a local site and can be adapted to meet local needs. Typically, from four to eight hours are required to complete the course. If interested in having a course in your area, contact Marv Erhardt, ND LEAD Center Director or your local emergency manager.

Administrative Information

Grants may be available to underwrite some or all of the costs of training. Graduate credit may be arranged (fees apply). For more information contact:

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