NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

September 2023

Crisis Preparedness and Response

Disasters come in many forms from natural causes such as earthquakes, fires, floods, and severe storms to man-made caused such as active shooter events and chemical spills. Knowing how to react and respond in a time of crisis will help keep you out of harm's way. School emergency preparedness efforts and emergency plans help to keep students and staff safe.

Designated Staff

Staff responsible for emergency management and effective implementation of safety and security policies, programs, directives, and training within their district or school.

Reporting Systems

Allow schools to learn information about concerning behaviors from members of the school community. Mechanisms for reporting range from systems that encourage reporting information to an adult at school to more formal systems that have anonymous online reporting. Example tip lines.

Threat Assessment

Identify, assess, and manage individuals of concern, including students, faculty, or staff. A threat assessment team is a group of trained, multidisciplinary school personnel that are tasked with early identification and intervention with at-risk students and staff.

Emergency Operations Plans

An Emergency Operations Plan (school EOP) addresses threats and hazards to the school and safety needs before, during, and after an incident.

Staff and Faculty Training

Training familiarizes staff and faculty with emergency policies and procedures, their role during an emergency, and how to provide training to students. Training may include presentations, seminars, or informal discussions developed by schools or districts.

Site Assessment

A site assessment examines the safety, accessibility, and emergency preparedness of school buildings and grounds. Critical aspects of an assessment include a review of building access and egress control measures, visibility around the exterior of the building, structural integrity of the building, compliance with architectural standards for people with disabilities and other access and functional needs, and emergency vehicle access.

Staff and Faculty Training

Training familiarizes staff and faculty with emergency policies and procedures, their role during an emergency, and how to provide training to students. Training may include presentations, seminars, or informal discussions developed by schools or districts.

Recovery Plans

Recovery plans make up a section of a school's Emergency Operations Plan (school EOP) and are tailored to a school's facilities, population, and geographical area. They should also develop plans for psychological and emotional recovery, like social, emotional, and behavioral recovery.

Sources:
https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/planning-preparedness-prevention/planning-preparedness/school-emergency-planning-safety/
https://www.schoolsafety.gov/foundational-elements-school-safety

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