

APPENDIX F

MCPS EMERGENCY/CRISIS PROCEDURE, SHELTER/LOCKDOWN

Emergency Preparedness Procedures

Key Points for Lockdown-Evacuate-Shelter (LES)

Lockdown

This is a term used to describe an emergency at an MCPS facility. Lockdown alerts staff that imminent danger exists inside or outside the building, and requires moving to an immediate lockdown mode. It requires that all students are under supervision. *The on-site emergency team (OSET) is not activated during a Lockdown.*

Persons authorized to call a Lockdown

School administrators or their designee will notify students, staff and visitors via the PA system and the portable radios when a Lockdown is in effect. Directions should be given to immediately to move to a lockdown mode. Staff should make the announcement and notify 911 and Office of School Performance.

Lockdown Alert--Staff Guidance

- When the administrator/designee announces a Lockdown, scan the immediate area outside the classroom or office for any students and staff. Allow them in the classroom/office, and immediately lock or secure the door if possible.
- Make the room look *unoccupied* by turning off the lights, close/cover the windows and blinds, and move away from the line of sight from the doors and windows. Remain silent.
- If staff and students are inside the building but outside a classroom or office when a Lockdown is called, move students to the nearest securable location.
- Staff supervising students outside when a Lockdown alert occurs inside the building should be notified of the Lockdown activation by P.A. or two-way radio. Staff and students should move to a pre-determined safe location identified on the emergency plan away from the building and maintain communication with the command post.
- Ignore the fire alarm system and class change bells.
- Wait for further instructions.

Evacuate

There are two evacuation alerts, *Fire and Directed*.

Fire Evacuation

- Activate Fire Evacuation Alarm
- Students/staff/visitors leave the building by the nearest exit
- Proceed to a point at least 50 feet from the building
- Perform an accountability of the students/staff/visitors

Directed Evacuation

- Will be used during possible High Level Bomb threats, an identified Suspicious Package or an Inside Hazardous Material Release
- Notify 911 and OSP
- Determine plan to direct everyone away from the known danger area
- Announce via PA and portable radio

Shelter

This is a term used to alert staff that an emergency exists at or near an MCPS facility. It requires all students to be accounted for and under supervision. Administrators may activate the OSET and set up a command post when appropriate. There are three types of shelters: *Public Safety, Severe Weather and Outside Hazardous Materials Release.*

Persons authorized to call a Shelter alert

Administrators or their designee will notify students/staff/visitors via the PA system and the portable radios when a Shelter alert is activated. It is recommended that an "age-appropriate" announcement of a Shelter alert include a brief description of the nature and location of the incident.

Public Safety Shelter Alert- Staff Guidance

When the administrator announces a Public Safety Shelter alert:

- Bring outside students/staff/visitors into the main building, portable classrooms are secured but not evacuated
- Outside doors are locked and kept secured
- Students should be accounted for in an instructional area.
- Classroom instruction should continue
- Staff must document attendance and report any discrepancies to an administrator/designee.
- During a Public Safety Shelter alert, classroom lockdown is not required.
- *The OSET* may be activated by an administrator during a Public Safety Shelter alert via a PA announcement and over the portable radios.
- Depending on the situation (the nature of the emergency or potential threat), it may not be appropriate to change classes. In these situations, class bells should be turned off and students/staff should remain in their classrooms until directed otherwise by the administrator/designee.
- Do not ignore the fire alarm system.

Severe Weather Shelter – A severe thunderstorm or tornado warning is activated for the area near the school.

- Students/staff/visitors must report to identified weather safe areas inside the building.
- Portable classrooms are to be evacuated to the main building.
- Bring emergency kit/phone with Nextel phone and ensure the NOAA weather radio is continually monitored

Outside Hazardous Material Release

Shelter Alert is a term used to describe a specific shelter alert due to an outside air contamination emergency at or near the building. This could be the result of a suspected

chemical, biological, or radiological incident; or a nearby hazardous materials spill.

Outside Hazardous Material Release Alert- Staff Guidance

When activating an Outside Hazardous Material Release Shelter alert, take the following steps immediately:

- Announce an *Outside Hazardous Material Release Shelter Alert*
- Bring students/staff/visitors into the main building from outdoor activities
- Evacuate portable classrooms in consultation if safe to do so
- Secure/lock exterior doors and windows
- Hold students in their current locations inside the building until the best course of action can be determined
- Turn off electrical power to ensure immediate shutdown of HVAC
- Ignore fire alarm system—only in this Outside Hazardous Material Release Shelter alert.

Parent/Child Reunification

All schools have plans in place to reunite students with their parents/guardians in the event of an emergency at a school. This process will ensure the safe and orderly reuniting of students and parents/guardians. Schools will ensure they use a three-step approach.

- Identify parents (using ID)
- Identify student location in the school or PCR location, sign out student
- Unite student and parent/guardian

Firearms

- Avoid attempts to disarm/subdue an armed subject.
- Notify administrator/designee and school-based security of any firearm incidents immediately, and call 911 with details.
- Determine need to implement a Lockdown or Public Safety Shelter alert.
- Abandoned/discarded firearms should be covered by appropriate means and never left unattended.

Bomb Threat Assessment

- Factors to consider:
 - Details/specifics provided by the bomb caller
 - Number of prior threats to the school
 - Current events surrounding the school
 - Demeanor of the bomb caller
- Based on an assessment of the situation and input from the administration of the school, the Department of School Safety and Security and the police, the administrator will make a decision on evacuation. If the parties do not agree, this disagreement will be resolved in favor of evacuation. (Refer to MCPS Regulation EKC-RA.) Use a Directed Evacuation to evacuate the school
- Evacuation is warranted **only** if the threat level is high.
- Evacuation is not warranted if the threat level is low.

- It is recommended that an activation of a Public Safety Shelter alert and the use of sweep/scan teams be used during a low level threat when the building is not evacuated.

Bomb Threats Call Trace

- Use “call trace” procedures on the yellow *Telephone Bomb Threat Checklist* card. Follow instructions exactly.
- After hanging up the phone, press *57 on the same line the call came in on.
- Press *47 if you have 279 or 517 exchanges on your school phone number.
- Do not dial “9” before you dial *57 or *47.
- Notify school administration immediately
- Report the bomb threat to 911 and OSP.
- Inform the 911 operator of “call trace” activation.

Bomb Threat Sweep/Scan

- In certain circumstances, staff volunteers may be asked to sweep/scan the facility or grounds for any suspicious items.
- A sweep/scan should be conducted in teams and only by visual means (eyes and ears only).
- If a suspicious item is discovered during a sweep/scan, evacuate to a 300-foot safe zone and notify administrator immediately.
- If a suspicious item is located, do not use a radio or cell phone in the immediate area within 25 feet in all directions.
- No suspicious item should be handled in any manner by school staff (do not touch it!).

Hazardous Material Spills

These guidelines should be followed in the event of a chemical incident in which there is potential for a significant release of hazardous materials. Spill response procedures will vary depending on whether the spill is **small** (less than 18 inches in diameter), **medium** (exceeds 18 inches, but is less than 6 feet), or **large** (exceeds 6 feet in diameter, and any “running” spill that has not been stopped). If a potential biological agent threat or incident is present, follow MCPS Biological Agent Threats/Incidents guidelines.

General Spill Control Techniques: Once a spill has occurred, the staff at the spill site must decide whether the spill is small enough to handle without outside assistance. Guidance should be obtained from science resource teachers or staff with a chemistry background. (i.e., in science labs, chemistry labs, automotive shop areas). *Only staff who are properly trained under OSHA Regulation 1910.120 should attempt to contain or clean up a small spill.*

Small Spill Evacuation: Evacuate the immediate area and surrounding areas whenever the air is or could become untenable (i.e., experiencing difficulty breathing, watery eyes, upper respiratory congestion or tightness in chest, coughing, runny nose, etc.). Also evacuate the immediate area or building if material is emitting vapors or fumes.

If a medium or large hazardous chemical/material spill occurs inside your school building...

- An administrator/designee should call 911 and OSP immediately with detailed information

(obtain the chemical MSDS, if available at time of spill incident).

- Evacuate the building immediately using a **Directed Evacuation** to funnel students/staff away from danger area.
- Notify building security and building services staff.
- Secure the area around the spill area.
- Follow instructions from fire and rescue services personnel.

*If a medium or large hazardous chemical-material spill occurs **immediately outside** your school building . . .*

- An administrator/designee should call 911 and OSP immediately with detailed information.
- Shut windows and doors and turn off ventilation systems.
- Notify building security and building services staff.
- Turn class-change bells off, if appropriate.
- Follow instructions from fire and rescue services personnel.

Activate the Outside Hazardous Material Release alert, if Appropriate.