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**COALITION FOR SAFE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES  
SAN MATEO COUNTY**

# **THE BIG FIVE**

**2014**

**SCHOOL EMERGENCY GUIDELINES  
IMMEDIATE ACTION RESPONSE**

## ***Immediate Action Response: The Big Five***

# **RESPONSE**

Response is the process of implementing appropriate actions while an emergency situation is unfolding. In this phase, schools mobilize the necessary resources to address the emergency at hand.

## **CALLING 911**

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When calling 911 be prepared to remain on the phone and answer specific questions. In order to complete an accurate assessment of the situation, the 911 Dispatcher must obtain as much information as possible to best inform emergency responders and engage the appropriate level of medical response.

### **WHEN REPORTING AN EMERGENCY**

- Remain calm and speak slowly and clearly
- Be prepared to provide name, location of the incident, and caller's location, if different from the scene of the emergency
- Although caller ID information may transfer immediately to the 911 Dispatcher, it is **not** available in all locations. The 911 Dispatcher will confirm and verify the phone number and address for **EVERY** call received
- Answer all questions asked by the 911 Dispatcher, even those that seem repetitious
- Do not hang up until the Dispatcher says to do so

### **CALLING 911 FROM A CELL PHONE**

- 911 calls from cell phones may need to be transferred to another agency because cell phone calls are often sent to a 911 answering point based on cell radio coverage. Cell coverage areas don't always match political boundaries
- Know your cell phone number and be prepared to give the dispatcher an exact address

**When calling 911, time is of the essence. Remain calm; speak slowly and clearly. The 911 Dispatcher needs to gather the correct information the first time he/she asks for it.**

## **Immediate Action Response: The Big Five**

# **IMMEDIATE ACTION RESPONSE: THE BIG FIVE**

An Immediate Action Response is a protocol that can be implemented in a variety of different emergency situations. When an emergency occurs, it is critical that staff members take **immediate** steps to protect themselves, their students, and other people on campus. With an Immediate Action Response, staff can follow specific directions without having to learn extensive protocols for each of several dozen different emergency situations.

Staff members must become familiar with each Immediate Action Response and be prepared to perform assigned responsibilities. All students must be taught what to do in the event that any of these response actions is implemented.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTION RESPONSES: THE BIG FIVE**

ACTION	DESCRIPTION
<b>DROP, COVER &amp; HOLD ON</b>	Implement during an earthquake or explosion to protect building occupants from flying and falling debris
<b>EVACUATION</b>	Implement when conditions outside the building or off-site are safer than inside or on-site. Requires the orderly movement of students and staff from school buildings to a pre-determined safe location
<b>LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE</b>	Initiate for an <b>immediate</b> threat of danger to occupants of a campus or school building and when any movement will put students and staff in jeopardy. Once implemented, no one is allowed to enter or exit rooms for any reason unless directed by law enforcement
<b>SECURE CAMPUS</b>	Initiate for a <b>potential</b> threat of danger in the surrounding community. All classroom/office doors are closed and locked and all students and staff remain inside until otherwise directed. Instruction continues as planned
<b>SHELTER IN PLACE</b>	Implement to isolate students and staff from the outdoor environment and provide greater protection from external airborne contaminants or wildlife. Close windows and air vents and shut down air conditioning/heating units

## ***Immediate Action Response: The Big Five***

### **DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON**

**DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON** is the immediate action taken during an earthquake to protect students and staff from flying and falling debris. It is an appropriate action for, but is not limited to, the following types of emergencies

- Earthquake
- Explosion

In the event of an explosion, earthquake, or other event causing falling debris, immediately “DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON.” Students and staff should drop to the floor, duck under a sturdy desk or table, cover the head with arms and hands, and hold onto furniture. Turn away from windows to stay clear of breaking glass. Individuals in wheelchairs can remain in the chair if mobility is limited. Move wheelchair against an interior wall and lock the wheels. Protect head by covering with arms if possible.

#### **DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON:**

- Must be practiced for immediate and automatic response
- Is the single most useful action to protect oneself in an earthquake
- In the event it is impossible to duck under sturdy furniture, continue to cover face and head with arms and hold onto something sturdy
- Requires an awareness that most injury in earthquakes is the result of breaking glass or falling objects
- Requires an awareness that fire alarms and sprinkler systems may go off in buildings during an earthquake, even if there is no fire
- Requires alert attention to aftershocks
- Requires that staff and students assist those with special needs to ensure safe cover for all
- Evacuate only if there is damage to the building, the building is on fire, or location is in a tsunami zone

## ***Immediate Action Response: The Big Five***

### **EVACUATION**

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**EVACUATION** is implemented when conditions make it unsafe to remain in the building. This action provides for the orderly movement of students and staff along prescribed routes from inside school buildings to a designated outside area of safety.

**EVACUATION** is considered appropriate for, but is not limited to, the following types of emergencies:

- Bomb threat
- Chemical accident
- Explosion or threat of explosion
- Fire
- Earthquake

In the event of an explosion, earthquake, or other event causing falling debris, **EVACUATION** will be preceded by a “DROP, COVER and HOLD ON” protocol. Students and staff should drop to the floor, duck under a desk or table, cover the head with arms and hands, and hold onto furniture.

#### **EVACUATION:**

- Requires exit from the building to a designated safe site, on-campus or off-site
- May require that students and staff rely on district bus transportation
- May require staff to exit via alternate routes based on circumstances
- Requires that students remain with assigned teachers unless circumstances prohibit that
- Requires that staff and students assist those with special needs to ensure for safe egress of all

## **EVACUATION**

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### **HOW TO ASSIST THOSE WITH DISABILITIES DURING AN EVACUATION**

The needs and preferences of non-ambulatory individuals will vary. Those at ground floor locations may be able to exit without help. Others may have minimal ability to move, but lifting them may be dangerous. Some non-ambulatory people also have respiratory complications. Oversee their careful evacuation from smoke or vapors if danger is immediate.

**To alert visually-impaired individuals:**

- Announce the type of emergency
- Offer arm for guidance
- Tell person where you are going, obstacles you encounter
- When you reach safety, ask if further help is needed

**To alert individuals with hearing limitations:**

- Turn lights on/off to gain person's attention -OR-
- Indicate directions with gestures –OR–
- Write a note with evacuation directions

**To evacuate individuals using crutches, canes or walkers:**

- Evacuate these individuals as injured persons
- Assist and accompany to evacuation site, if possible -OR-
- Use a sturdy chair (or one with wheels) to move person -OR-
- Help carry individual to safety

**To evacuate individuals using wheelchairs**

- Give priority assistance to wheelchair users with electrical respirators
- Most wheelchairs are too heavy to take downstairs; consult with the affected individual to determine the best carry options
- Reunite person with the wheelchair as soon as it is safe to do so

## **Immediate Action Response: The Big Five**

### **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE**

**LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE** is implemented when the imminent threat of violence or gunfire is identified on the campus or the school is directed by law enforcement. During **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE**, students are to remain in designated classrooms or lockdown locations at all times. Do not evacuate until room is cleared by law enforcement or site administration. This response is considered appropriate for, but not limited to, the following types of emergencies:

- Gunfire
- Threat of extreme violence outside the classroom
- Immediate danger in the surrounding community

Lockdown/Barricade is a protective action against human threat while Shelter-in-Place protects against environmental threat. Lockdown/Barricade requires closing and locking doors and barricading with heavy objects. No one is allowed to enter or exit until door-to-door release by Law Enforcement or School Incident Commander. Shelter-in-Place calls for closed, unlocked doors and allows for the free movement of staff and students within the classroom or office.

#### **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE:**

- Is a response to an immediate danger; it is **not** preceded by any warning
- Demands quick action; an active shooter, for example, can fire one round per second
- Requires common sense thinking under duress; do what must be done to best ensure survival of both students and staff
- If it is possible to safely **get off campus** with students, take that action immediately (Run)
- If it is not possible to get off campus, **quickly lockdown** inside a safe room and **barricade** the entrance (Hide)
- Once a room is secured, no one is allowed to enter or exit under any circumstances
- In the extreme instance that a Violent Intruder is able to enter a room, occupants should be prepared to fight back (Fight)

## **Immediate Action Response: The Big Five**

### **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE**

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#### **“THINK ON YOUR FEET”**

In the event of a Violent Intruder on campus, quick thinking is imperative for survival. Especially when an active threat of violence is present, an individual will have to think on his/her feet to quickly determine the best course of action. These choices may include getting off campus, hiding, implementing Lockdown/Barricade or even, in the most extreme of situations, fighting an assailant. Understanding and practicing these options can help an individual respond decisively and in so doing, best ensure the safety and survival of self, students, and other staff.

In the event of a Violent Intruder on campus, expect to hear noise from alarms, gunfire, explosions and shouting. It is not uncommon for people confronted with a threat to first deny the possible danger rather than respond. Quality training can help individuals think clearly in the midst of a chaotic scene. Proper training should include helping staff recognize the sounds of danger and teaching them to forcefully communicate and take necessary action. These actions would likely include:

#### **Escape / Get Off Campus**

- Only attempt this if you are confident the suspect(s) is not in the immediate vicinity
- Safely get off campus; find a position of cover or safe place for assembly
- Guide/instruct others you encounter on the way to follow you to safety
- Call 911 immediately to report location and request emergency services if necessary
- Once in a safe place – stay there

#### **Hide / Lockdown/Barricade**

- Clear all hallways; get students and staff inside immediately
- Once locked and barricaded inside a room, follow all protocols for Lockdown/Barricade as practiced
- Direct all those in the room to remain still and quiet; turn off/silence cellphones
- If unable to find cover inside a secure room, quickly seek out a hiding place on campus

#### **Fight**

- If confronted by an assailant, as a last resort, consider trying to disrupt or incapacitate through aggressive force or by using items in the environment such as fire extinguishers or chairs
- There are documented instances where aggressive action on the part of the victims resulted in stopping the attacker
- Fighting back is NOT an expectation, merely one option for a last resort response

## **Immediate Action Response: The Big Five**

### **SECURE CAMPUS**

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**SECURE CAMPUS** is implemented when the threat of violence or police action in the surrounding community requires precautionary measures to ensure the safety of staff and students. When a campus is in **SECURE CAMPUS** status, classroom instruction and/or activity may continue as long as all classroom and office doors are locked and all students and staff remain inside **through the duration of the event**. Outer gates and other entrance/exit points can be closed (**NOT LOCKED**) to deter a potential perpetrator from entering school grounds.

This response is considered appropriate for, but not limited to, the following types of emergencies:

- Potential threat of violence in the surrounding community
- Law enforcement activity in the surrounding community

A **SECURE CAMPUS** response may be elevated to **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE** in which case instruction immediately ceases and students and staff follow **LOCKDOWN / BARRICADE** procedures.

Secure Campus is a precautionary measure against the threat of potential violence in the surrounding community. Secure Campus requires locking all classroom/office doors and closing entrance and exit points on the school's perimeter. The objective is to protect against a potential threat at large in the community from coming onto campus. Secure Campus differs from Lockdown/Barricade in that it allows classroom instruction to continue.

#### **SECURE CAMPUS:**

- Is intended to prevent a potential community threat from entering campus
- Heightens school safety while honoring instructional time
- Requires that **all** exterior classroom / office doors are locked and remain locked
- Is intended to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of the building
- Requires that students and staff remain in **SECURE CAMPUS** status until **ALL CLEAR** is issued by School Incident Commander

## **SHELTER IN PLACE**

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**SHELTER IN PLACE** is a short-term measure implemented to isolate students and staff from the outdoor environment and prevent exposure to airborne contaminants or threats posed by wildlife or other hazards. The procedures include closing and sealing doors, windows, and vents; shutting down the classroom/building heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems to prevent exposure to the outside air; and turning off pilot lights.

**SHELTER IN PLACE** is considered appropriate for, but is not limited to, the following types of emergencies:

- External Chemical Release
- Fire in the Community
- Hazardous Material Spills

During a Shelter-in-Place response as a result of air contamination, the HVAC systems must be shut down to provide protection from outside air. Students and staff may freely move about inside the buildings, but no one should leave the room until directed by fire officials, law enforcement, or site administration.

### **SHELTER IN PLACE:**

- Requires an understanding that all heating, air conditioning, and ventilation systems may be shut down immediately
- Requires an understanding that all pilot lights and sources of flame may need to be extinguished
- Requires an understanding that any gaps around doors and windows may need to be sealed
- Allows for free movement within classrooms or offices