

THE HAZARD REMIEDIATOR



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Office of Safety and Risk Management

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT SCHOOL SAFETY

As we think about recent acts of terrorism around the world, we should evaluate our own preparedness for acts of violence against schools. School districts should review policies and procedures for school safety. A few suggestions that should be considered are listed below. Some are mandates outlined in Education Law and the Commissioner's Regulations, while others are sound risk management practices for schools.

PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS

- Are District-Level and Building-Level Safety Plans current?
- Do administrators have current copies of these plans?
- Do the plans include up-to-date floor plans and site plans of your facilities?
- Have Emergency Responders received current copies of Safety Plans, floor plans and site plans?
- Have you conducted safety and security audits of your facilities with safety specialists and/or law enforcement?
- Are emergency communication systems (i.e., cell phones, P.A. systems, bullhorns, radios, etc.) operational and available?

- Are access control systems, devices and hardware operational?
- Are visitors adequately screened before they are allowed to enter schools?
- Does law enforcement have remote access to video surveillance systems?
- Are all employees trained in emergency procedures (i.e., lockdown, shelter in place, lockout, evacuation)?
- Do drills take place to ensure that staff and students are adequately trained to respond to emergencies?
- Are outdoor activities considered when planning emergency procedures?
- Are procedures in place to secure large group activities during an emergency?

RESPONSE

- Does each school have a "Gotta Go Bag" that includes attendance lists, phone lists, medications, floor plans, keys, etc.)?
- Does the district use a mass notification system to alert parents about emergencies?
- Do you have keys and floor plans in a designated location that emergency responders could access during an incident?
- Have you planned for an off-site location and process to be used for parents to pick up students during an emergency?

RECOVERY

- Does the district have current Post-Incident Response Plans?

SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

New York Safe Schools Office

A portal of information developed to help schools implement effective strategies and

plans to enhance emergency preparedness:
safeschools.ny.gov

Understanding and Preventing School Violence Directed Against Teachers

A Report by the American Psychological Association Board of Educational Affairs Task Force on Classroom Violence Directed Against Teachers:

www.apa.org/ed/schools/cpse/activities/classroom-violence.aspx

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers

Fact sheet from the National Association of School Psychologists:

safeschools.ny.gov/sites/default/files/Violence.pdf

Psychological First Aid for Schools

Guidance from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network:

www.nctsn.org/content/psychological-first-aid-schoolspfa

THREAT ASSESSMENT

New York State Police Threat Assessment Model

New York State Police flow chart on the school Threat Assessment process:

www.troopers.ny.gov/Schools_and_Communities/Threat_Assessment/NYSP_threat_assess_chart.pdf

Threat Assessment In Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates

Guidance from the United States Secret Service and U. S. Department of Education on conducting Threat Assessments including a model Threat Assessment plan.

www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/threatassessmentguide.pdf

GOTTA GO BAGS

New York State Police “Gotta Go Bags”

New York State Police suggested list of items

to have available during emergencies:
www.troopers.ny.gov/Schools_and_Communities/Gotta_Go_Bags/

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

New York State Police “If You See Something, Say Something” Program

New York State Police educational materials designed to encourage students to share concerns about dangerous behaviors with adults:

www.troopers.ny.gov/Schools_and_Communities/If_You_See_Something_Say_Something_Videos/

As always, if you need assistance with plan reviews/updates, training, drills, or safety audits, please contact the BOCES Safety and Risk Management Office.



Safely Decorating Schools for the Holiday

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and students and school personnel will be decorating for the season. Following these guidelines will help avoid creating fire and life-safety hazards in school facilities caused by indiscriminate use of inappropriate decorations.

Christmas Trees

Use only artificial Christmas trees that bear the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. There is no aesthetic advantage of a natural tree over one of the better types of synthetic trees available today. Be sure that Christmas tree stands are of sturdy construction and are large enough to safely and adequately support the tree.

In decorating Christmas trees, as in all other decorative lighting applications, use only light leads made for the newer cool-burning miniature bulbs. Light leads must contain an integral fuse in or near the male plug, and must also be UL labeled. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommendations regarding the maximum number of lights that may be used in a combination of leads or that may be plugged into one outlet.

Place the tree so that only a short extension cord need be used to connect the light lead, without creating a tripping hazard. Be sure that the extension cord is heavy enough to accept the applied electric load.

Use break-resistant Christmas tree ornaments only. Being extremely fragile, traditional glass ornaments shatter upon impact, and can cause injury.

Placement of Christmas Trees

Do not place Christmas trees in corridors. Corridors and areas of travel through lobbies and other open spaces must be kept clear at all times, with no obstruction to the free flow of traffic.

In auditoriums, cafeterias and other similar areas of assembly, and in lobbies, place the Christmas tree in a location well away from the path of travel to any of the exits.

Decorations

Used as combustible decorations, untreated paper and plastics and natural tree boughs present fire hazards far beyond any artistic

values achieved. Use only decorations that bear the UL label or are certified by the manufacturer to be flame resistant.

** Information Courtesy of SED Facilities Planning*



Winter Weather on the Web

New York State
Weather: All Warnings
alerts.weather.gov/cap/ny.php?x=1

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Agency: Winter Safety & Awareness
www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/index.shtml

The Weather Channel
www.weather.com



WINTER WEATHER TERMS TO KNOW

As the winter weather season approaches, do you know what the various weather warnings and advisories mean?

Watches

Winter Storm Watch

Issued for the possibility of severe life-threatening winter weather conditions including:

heavy snow, heavy ice and/or near blizzard conditions. Forecasters are typically 50 percent confident that severe winter weather will materialize when a watch is issued.

Blizzard Watch

Issued for the possibility of blizzard conditions. Forecasters are typically 50 percent confident that blizzard conditions will materialize when a blizzard watch is issued.

Lake Effect Snow Watch

Issued for the potential for heavy lake effect snow.

Wind Chill Watch

Issued for the potential of wind chills of -25F or less, which can cause rapid frostbite and increase the risk of hypothermia.

Warnings

Winter Storm Warning

Issued for a combination of heavy snow and/or ice, of which, at least one exceeds or meets warning criteria. Winter weather is expected to cause life-threatening public impact for a combination of winter hazards including heavy snow, ice, near blizzard conditions, blowing and drifting snow and/or dangerous wind chills.

Heavy Snow Warning

Issued when 7 inches or more of snow is expected in 12 hours or less, or 9 inches or more is expected in 24 hours or less. Heavy Snow Warnings are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be snow.

Ice Storm Warning

Issued for a ½ inch or more of ice accumulation which causes damage to power lines and trees. Ice Storm Warnings are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event is expected to be ice.

Blizzard Warning

Issued when blizzard conditions are imminent or expected in the next 12 to 24 hours. Blizzard conditions include sustained or frequent gusts of or above 35 mph AND considerable falling, blowing and drifting of snow reducing

visibilities, frequently 1/4 mile.

Lake Effect Snow Warning

Issued for 7 inches or more of lake effect snow.

Wind Chill Warning

Issued when the wind chill is expected to be -25F or less. Frostbite can occur in less than 10 minutes.

Advisories

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for a hazardous combination of snow, and ice of which neither meets or exceeds warning criteria. Issued for winter weather that will cause significant inconveniences or could be life-threatening if the proper precautions are not taken.

Snow Advisory

Issued when an average of 4 to 6 inches of snow is expected in 12 hours or less. Snow advisories are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be snow.

Freezing Rain Advisory

Any accumulation of freezing rain that can make roads slippery. Freezing rain advisories will only be issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be freezing rain only.

Snow and Blowing Snow Advisory

Sustained wind or frequent gusts of 25 to 34 mph accompanied by falling and blowing snow, occasionally reducing visibility to a 1/4 mile or less for three hours or more.

Blowing Snow Advisory

Widespread or localized blowing snow reducing visibilities to a 1/4 mile or less with winds less than 35 mph.

Lake Effect Snow Advisory

Issued for an average of 4 to 6 inches of lake effect snow.

Wind Chill Advisory

Issued for wind chills of -15F to -24F. Frostbite can occur in less than 30 minutes.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status, partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, gender (sex), military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status or political affiliation, and additionally does not discriminate against students on the basis of weight, gender identity, gender expression, and religious practices or any other basis prohibited by New York state and/or federal non-discrimination laws in employment or its programs and activities. The BOCES provides equal access to community and youth organizations.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

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December Health Observances

December 7 - 13

National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

1600 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30333

fluinbox@cdc.gov

www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/

December 1 - 31

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Prevent Blindness America

211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60606

info@preventblindness.org

www.preventblindness.org



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