

How to deal with an emergency situation in School?

Created: Friday, 20 December 2013 06:53 | Published: Sunday, 23 February 2014 12:03 | Written by [Monika Agarwal](#) | [Print](#)

You are conducting a routine class when suddenly, you hear shouts of 'Fire, Fire!'. What will be your next step? What would you do to ensure that your students are unharmed? It is natural to feel overwhelmed and panicked in the first few minutes. However, the sooner you gather your bearings, the higher the chances of rescue and recovery. Every school should develop an emergency plan, which encompasses all the possible scenarios. The situation can vary from fire, student injury to terrorist attacks. You should be bold enough to tackle any threats at any time.



Things To Remember When Dealing With Emergency Situations

1. Train everyone

Emergency handling techniques should be taught not only to the staff, but also to the whole school in general in [easy spoken English](#). The school security should be involved in emergency response planning. Only when the overall training is imparted, then there will be cohesiveness in rescue operations. Make sure the operations are conducted in [fluent English](#) so that there is a standard format, which can be followed.

2. Drill

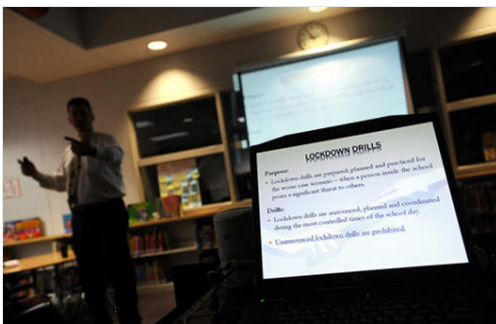
Only planning is not enough. Drill these rescue measures regularly like in the military. Disaster can strike anywhere and anytime. When you practice emergency drills regularly, students will be accustomed and their responses will become like a second habit. Almost all countries have laws regarding drill practices. A good school takes a proactive approach for safety measures.

3. First Aid

Train yourself in first aid and be proficient in basic life saving measures. This can include CPR, bandage medications, etc. It's your knowledge that will become responsible in saving a life. Many schools conduct training from accredited medical institutions. Make sure you avail the course.

4. Prepare an escape route

In order to avoid confusion, it is a good habit to determine an escape route as soon as possible. The route should be easily accessible and should not be blocked under any circumstances. Make sure everyone in the school is aware of the escape route.



Sample Responses In Emergency Situations

1. Fire

In case of fire, try to reach the main school broadcast system. Once there, be calm and in [precise English](#), instruct everyone to get out of his or her classrooms in a single line. Be sure to guide them through unaffected areas. If you are in a class, calmly let the students go outside by stairs.

Example:

"Attention. This is an emergency. Kindly leave the classrooms and move quickly towards the exit. Do not approach B wing. Class Teachers and leaders, please ensure everyone gets out within 10 minutes."

2. Earthquakes

In case of earthquake, yell, "Get under the tables".

3. Student fights

Sometimes, tiffs evolve between students resulting in fisticuffs. Break the fight, attend to the wounded by giving first aid, and reprimand the offending parties.

4. Terrorist hijacking/ shooting

If you are in a class and you hear shooting, tell the class to close the windows and bolt the doors tight. Ensure that they duck under the table. If you have access to the public broadcast system, announce the following:

"Attention. Close all the doors and windows tightly. Do not open unless specified. This is an emergency".



You can repeat the above warning as much as you can. Follow the instructions in [precise and fluent English](#). For more confidence, you can improve your spoken English with the help of an online English guide.

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- By **Monika Agarwal**

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