

**Instruction**

**Earthquake Emergency Procedure System**

Earthquake While Indoors at School

When an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken inside the school building and in individual classrooms:

1. The teacher or other person in authority shall implement the DROP action. Each student shall:
  - a) Get under equipment (desk, table, etc.) where available. Otherwise get next to an inside wall or under an inside doorway.
  - b) Drop to knees with back to the windows and knees together.
  - c) Clasp both hands firmly behind the head, covering the neck.

- d) Bury face in arms, protecting the head. Close the eyes tightly.
- e) Stay there until the procedure or emergency is over or until subsequent instructions are given. Such instructions will depend upon circumstances and the extent of damage to the buildings.
2. As soon as possible, teachers shall move the children away from windows and out from under heavy suspended light fixtures.
3. Teachers shall implement action to LEAVE THE BUILDING when the earthquake is over. Teachers shall ensure that students do not run, particularly on stairways.

Earthquake While on School Grounds

When an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken if teachers and students are on school playgrounds:

1. The teacher or other person in authority shall direct the children to WALK away from buildings, trees, poles, or exposed wires.

2. The teacher shall implement the DROP action. Teachers and students shall cover as much skin surface as possible, close eyes, and cover ears.
3. Teachers & students shall stay in the open until the earthquake is over, or until further directions are given.

Subsequent Emergency Procedures

1. Teachers shall see that students avoid touching electrical wires that may have fallen.
2. Teachers or student shall not light any fires after the earthquake until the area is declared safe. Laboratory or shop teachers shall be watchful of students' relighting burners or stoves.
3. Teachers shall render first aid if necessary.
4. Teachers shall take roll of their classes.
5. The principal shall see that guards are posted at a safe distance from all building entrances to see that no one reenters for any reason until the buildings are declared safe. Guards may be custodians, teachers, or students.

6. The principal shall direct a custodian to shut off all pilot lights on water heater or furnaces, as well as stoves in homemaking classrooms.
7. The principal shall request assistance as needed, through appropriate channels, from the County Emergency Services office, or fire and sheriff's departments.
8. The principal shall notify utility companies of any break or suspected break in lines which may present an additional hazard. If damage has occurred, the custodian shall shut off all utilities at the main valve.
9. The principal shall, if possible, contact the District Office for further instructions.

10. The principal shall determine the advisability of closing the school, with the advice of the County Building Inspector if possible.
11. Following the quake, the principal and custodian shall inspect all buildings for safety in accordance with inspection procedures below.

12. If the building is safe to use, the principal or designee shall clear debris in order to resume educational activities as soon as possible.
13. Until such time as the buildings are safe for use, the principal shall provide educational facilities outside so that the educational program may be continued with as little interruption as possible.

#### General Procedures

Students shall be taught the following safety precautions to be taken during an earthquake in the event that adults are not present to give specific directions:

1. The safest place to be is in the open. Stay there.
2. Move away from buildings, trees, and exposed sires. DO NOT RUN!
3. After the earthquake, if you are on your way to school, continue to school.
4. After the earthquake, if you are on your way home, continue home.

#### Inspections After Earthquake

1. The school custodian shall make a thorough inspection immediately after a severe earthquake. Check points: Large cracks affecting buildings, earth slippage affecting buildings, water leaks, gas leaks, electrical breakages. If leaks are detected, the custodian shall shut off the utility in the building affected and notify the maintenance department.
2. The building principal shall inspect the facility. If the principal believes the school is damaged sufficiently to be a hazard, he/she shall notify the Superintendent or designee and ask the County Building Inspector to check for structural failure and equipment adequacy. Until this is done, the building shall not be occupied.
3. The County Building Inspector shall be responsible for determining if the structure is safe for occupancy. The Superintendent or designee shall expedite reconstruction and replacement of equipment.

#### Earthquake While on the Bus

When students are on the school bus and an earthquake occurs, the following actions shall be taken:

1. The bus driver shall pull to the side of the road away from any buildings, poles, wires, overhead structures or bridges, if possible, and issue the DROP action.
2. The driver shall set the brakes and turn off the ignition.
3. The bus driver shall wait until the earthquake is over before proceeding on the route.
4. The bus driver shall contact the Director of Transportation for instructions.
5. If the bus driver continues on, he/she shall watch for hazards created by earthquakes, such as fallen electrical wires, cracked roads, or fallen poles.