

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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Informational Bulletin 2017-05
Educational Occupancies – Emergency Egress Drills

Purpose: This informational bulletin shall provide updated information regarding Emergency Egress and Relocation Drills (Fire Drills) as required by *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2015 Edition – Chapter 14 & 15*.

Emergency egress drills for educational occupancies, particularly those at the grade school level, are essential to ensure an orderly response during a fire. Unfortunately, the predictability of such drills often leads to their ineffectiveness. When a bell sounds, the primary emphasis should be placed on evacuation, regardless of who is or is not present in the hallways and regardless of whether fire equipment is parked in front of the school. Essentially, the fire department and the school should vary the timing and arrangement of the drills but not the required response, which is orderly evacuation.

Emergency Egress Drills:

Saf-C 6008.05 Modifications to Life Safety Code

(a) Section 14.7.2.3 and Section 15.7.2.3 of NFPA 101 shall be amended to read as follows:

“Emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted as follows:

(1) At least one emergency egress and relocation drill shall be conducted every month the facility is in session, including summer school;

Exception #1: In climates where the weather is severe, the monthly emergency egress and relocation drills shall be permitted to be deferred provided that the required number of emergency egress and relocation drills is achieved and at least 4 are conducted before the drills are deferred; and

Exception #2: With the approval of the local fire official and in concert with RSA 189:64, no more than 2 of the required emergency egress and relocation drills may be eliminated and replaced by drills that test emergency response to hazards such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, bomb threats, and domestic terrorism. No required emergency egress and relocation drills shall be replaced by all-hazard drills unless an emergency response plan is submitted to the local fire official and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management;

(2) All occupants of the building shall participate in the drill; and

(3) One additional emergency egress and relocation drill, other than for educational occupancies that are open on a year-round basis, shall be required within the first 30 days of operation”.

15.7.2.4 All emergency drill alarms shall be sounded on the fire alarm system.

4.7* Fire Drills.

Emergency egress and relocation drills conforming to the provisions of this Code shall be conducted as specified by the provisions of Chapters 11 through 43, or by appropriate action of the authority having jurisdiction. Drills shall be designed in cooperation with the local authorities.

4.7.2* Drill Frequency. Emergency egress and relocation drills, where required by Chapters 11 through 43 or the authority having jurisdiction, shall be held with sufficient frequency to familiarize occupants with the drill procedure and to establish conduct of the drill as a matter of routine. Drills shall include suitable procedures to ensure that all persons subject to the drill participate.

4.7.3 Orderly Evacuation. When conducting drills, emphasis shall be placed on orderly evacuation rather than on speed.

4.7.4* Simulated Conditions. Drills shall be held at expected and unexpected times and under varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that can occur in an actual emergency.

4.7.5 Relocation Area. Drill participants shall relocate to a predetermined location and remain at such location until a recall or dismissal signal is given.

4.7.6* A written record of each drill shall be completed by the person responsible for conducting the drill and maintained in an approved manner.

4.8 Emergency Action Plan.

4.8.1 Where Required. Emergency action plans shall be provided as follows:

- (1)Where required by the provisions of Chapters **11** through **42**
- (2)Where required by action of the authority having jurisdiction

4.8.2 Plan Requirements.

4.8.2.1 Emergency action plans shall include the following:

- (1)Procedures for reporting of emergencies
- (2)Occupant and staff response to emergencies
- (3) Evacuation, relocation, and shelter-in-place procedures appropriate to the building, its occupancy, emergencies, and hazards
- (4)Appropriateness of the use of elevators
- (5)Design and conduct of fire drills
- (6)Type and coverage of building fire protection systems
- (7)Other items required by the authority having jurisdiction

4.8.2.2 Required emergency action plans shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction for review.