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806 - CRISIS MANAGEMENT POLICY

[NOTE: The 1999 Minnesota Legislature directed the commissioner of Children, Families & Learning to draft, maintain, and make available to school boards a Model Crisis Management Policy. See Minn. Stat. §121A.57 (Minn. Law 1999, Ch. 241, Art. 9, Sec. 6). By July 1, 2000, school boards must adopt a District Crisis Management Policy to address potential crisis situations in the school district. Id. The District Policy must be developed in consultation with district and school administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents/guardians, community members, community emergency response agencies (law enforcement and fire officials, EMT, etc.), county attorney offices, social service agencies, and any other appropriate individuals or organizations (such as Safe and Drug Free School coordinators and bus contractors). Id. This model policy is the result of a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, Division of Monitoring and Compliance; the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management; and the Minnesota School Boards Association.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members as to how to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation in the school district. Please note that, pursuant to this Policy, tailored crisis management plans will be developed for each school building in the school district and sections or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. The Policy and Plans. The school district administration shall present tailored crisis management plans for each building to the school board for review and approval. These building-specific crisis management plans will include general crisis procedures and crisis specific procedures. Upon approval by the school board, such crisis management plans shall be an addendum to this Crisis Management Policy. This Policy and the plans will be maintained and updated year to year.
- B. Elements of the District Crisis Management Policy.

1. General Crisis Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes general crisis procedures for securing the building, classroom evacuation, building evacuation, campus evacuation, and sheltering. It designates the individual(s) who will determine when these actions will be taken. These district-wide procedures may be modified by building administrators when creating the building-specific crisis management plans. Each building will have access to a copy of the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Guide. This guide will assist in development of the building-specific crisis management plans.

[NOTE: The Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Planning Guide has sample lock-down procedures, evacuation procedures and sheltering procedures.]

- a. Lock-Down Procedures. Lock-down procedures will be used in situations that may result in harm to persons inside the school building, such as a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespassing, disturbance, or at the discretion of the building administrator or designee. The building administrator or designee will announce the lock-down over the public address system or other designated system. Provisions for emergency evacuation should be maintained even in the event of a lock-down.

- b. Evacuation Procedures. Classroom, building, and campus evacuations may be implemented at the discretion of the building administrator or designee. Each building's crisis management plan will include procedures for transporting students and staff a safe distance from harm to a designated safe area until released by the building administrator or designee, as appropriate. Safe areas may change depending on the emergency.

- c. Sheltering Procedures. Sheltering provides refuge for students, staff, and visitors within the school building during an emergency. Shelters are safe areas that maximize the safety of inhabitants. Safe areas may change depending on the emergency. The building administrator or designee will announce the need for sheltering over the public address system or other designated system.

2. Crisis-Specific Procedures. The Crisis Management Policy includes crisis-specific procedures for potential crisis situations that may occur during the school day or at school-sponsored events and functions. These district-wide procedures are designed so that building administrators can tailor response procedures when creating building-specific crisis management plans.

3. Additional Procedures.

- a. Early School Closure Procedures. The superintendent or designee will

make decisions about closing a school or any school district building. Such decisions will be made by the superintendent as early in the day as possible. The early school closure procedures will describe potential reasons for early school closure (weather-related or a crisis situation), will specify how the decision will be communicated to staff, students, families and the school community (including means such as broadcast media, local authorities, or a phone tree), and will discuss factors to be considered in closing and reopening a school or school district building. The early school closure procedures also will include a process for reminding parents and guardians to listen to designated radio and TV stations for school closing announcements, where possible.

b. Media Procedures. The superintendent or designee has the authority and discretion for notifying parents and guardians and the school community in the event of a crisis or early school closure.

c. Grief-Counseling Procedures. The recommended grief counseling procedures will provide for initiating a grief-counseling plan utilizing available resources such as the school psychologist, counselor, community grief counselors, or others in the community. The grief-counseling procedures will be used whenever determined by the superintendent or the building administrator to be necessary, such as after an assault, a hostage situation, shooting, or suicide. The grief-counseling procedures should include the following steps.

(1) Meet with school counseling staff to determine the level of intervention for students and staff (was the crisis on campus, were there student or staff witnesses, etc.).

(2) Designate specific rooms as private counseling areas.

(3) Escort siblings and close friends of the victim(s) and other highly stressed students and staff to counselors.

(4) Prohibit the media from questioning students or staff.

(5) Follow-up with students and staff who receive counseling.

(6) Resume normal routines as soon as possible.

4. Facility Diagrams and Site Plans. School buildings will have a facility

diagram and site plan showing at least the following: the location of primary and secondary evacuation routes, exits, designated safe areas inside and outside of the building, fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots and utility shut offs. The facility diagrams and site plans will be available in the office of the building administrator and in appropriate areas and will be kept on file in the school district office.

5. Emergency Telephone Numbers. Each building will maintain a current list of emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of local and county personnel who are likely to be involved in resolving a crisis situation. The list will include numbers for agencies such as the police, fire, ambulance, hospital, the Poison Control Center, local, county, and state emergency management agencies, local public works department, local utility companies, the public health nurse, mental health/suicide hotlines, and the county welfare agency, so that they may be contacted as appropriate. A copy of the list for each building will be kept on file in the school district office and will be updated annually.
6. Crisis Response Teams.
 - a. Composition. The building administrator in each school building will select a crisis response team trained to respond in an emergency. All team members will be trained to carry out the building's crisis management plan and have knowledge of procedures, evacuation routes, and safe areas. Team members must be willing to be actively involved with resolving crises and be available to assist when necessary. Each building will maintain a current list of crisis response team members and update it annually. A copy of the list will be kept on file in the school district office.
 - b. Leaders. The building administrator or designee serves as the leader of the crisis response team and the principle contact for emergency response officials. When they are present, emergency response agents may elect to take command and control of the situation. It is critical in this situation that school officials assume a resource role and are available to the emergency response personnel.
7. District Employees. Teachers generally have the most direct contact with students on a day-to-day basis. As a result, they should be aware of their role in responding to crisis situations. This also applies to non-teaching school personnel who have direct contact with students. All staff should be aware of the District Crisis Management Policy and their own building's crisis management plan.

III. CRISIS AREAS COVERED BY THIS POLICY

This Crisis Management Policy provides sample procedures for addressing the following crises:

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Building-specific crisis management plans will include such procedures and any other appropriate procedures.

IV. CRISIS-SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

As provided in Section II A of this policy, tailored crisis management plans for each building will be presented to the school board for review and approval and then will become an addendum to this policy that will be maintained and updated year to year.

- A. Fire.

School preparation before the emergency:

1. Designate a safe area away from the building and away from fire lanes. (Minn. Stat. §§229F.391 and 299F.011; Fire Code §408.3.4) The State Fire Marshal recommends safe areas be at least 50 feet away.
2. Each building's facility diagram and site plan will be available in appropriate areas of the building showing the most direct evacuation routes to the designated safe areas (both inside and outside of the building), and the location of the fire alarm control panel, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, hoses, water spigots and utility shut offs.
3. Teachers and staff will be trained regarding the main emergency evacuation routes and alternate routes from various points in the building.
4. Certain employees will be trained to know the locations and proper use of fire extinguishers and protective clothing and equipment required. Minnesota State Fire Code §406.3.3. Typically, this will only be employees who work in hazardous areas in the school.
5. The school district will conduct fire drills which include practicing how to move safely using both primary and alternative evacuation routes.
6. Fire drills will be conducted periodically without warning at various times of the day and under different circumstances (e.g., lunchtime, recess, and during assemblies). State law requires a minimum of nine drills each school year. (Minn. Stat. §299F.30; Minnesota State Fire Code §408.3.2 and 408.3.3 and Table 405.2) Note: The State Fire Marshal advises schools to defer fire drills during the winter months.
7. A record of fire drills conducted at the building will be maintained in the building administrator's office.
8. The school district will have prearranged sites for emergency shelter sites and transportation as needed.
9. The school district will determine which staff will remain in the building to perform essential functions as long as it is safe to do so. The school district also will designate in advance an administrator or responsible adult to meet with local fire or law enforcement agents upon their arrival.

Procedures at the time of the emergency:

1. Sound the building's fire alarm by pulling the nearest fire alarm station. If no pull station is close, call the switchboard/operator.

2. The first staff person aware of the fire should contact the building administrator.
3. Evacuate students and staff according to the routes posted in the rooms and offices.
4. Close all classroom and office doors, do not lock doors. (Minnesota State Fire Code § 408.3.5.
5. The building administrator or designee will call 911 and provide the location and address for the building. The building administrator also will notify the superintendent.
6. The building administrator or superintendent will report the incident (even if it is a false alarm) to the fire service as required by state law. (Minn. Stat. § 299F.452)
7. The building administrator or designee will meet with local fire or law enforcement agents upon arrival and will give them an update, a facility diagram, and a site plan.

Procedures for teachers:

1. During an evacuation, take the class roster. The teacher is responsible for accounting for all students. Make sure all students and adults have left the room. Close the classroom door but leave it unlocked.
2. Lead all students in an orderly and efficient manner to the safe area via the posted evacuation routes. Do not allow students to stop at lockers to get books, sweaters, jackets, or other personal belongings.
3. The first person to reach any door should feel the door to see if it is hot. If it is not hot, open it and proceed slowly and low to the floor. If it is hot, the teacher will quickly find an alternate route and lead the students in an orderly manner along the alternate route.
4. Follow specialized evacuation procedures for disabled persons as outlined in the building fire safety and evacuation plan or the student's IEP.

At the safe area:

1. When the group arrives at the safe area, check for any missing students and report them to the building administrator.
2. Do not block any door or gate that may be used by emergency response personnel.
3. While at the safe area, teachers supervise the group closely. There may be a great deal of confusion and emergency vehicles will need access to the site.

4. If there was a fire in the building, be alert for students who may smell of smoke. Alert school administrators to any suspicious activities relating to the fire including what may be overheard from students.
5. Do not re-enter any school buildings until fire department officials declare them safe and authorize re-entry.
6. Transport students as needed.

B. Severe Weather.

1. Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm/Indoor Shelter. These procedures are for any weather situation in which students and staff should remain in the building and seek shelter.

Procedures before the emergency:

- a. The school district will identify both potential problem areas on the campus and areas with the highest degree of safety for students and staff. *Unsafe* areas include rooms with large unsupported roof spans, large windows, or rooms located where they will receive the full force of the wind such as upper floor gymnasiums and auditoriums. *Safe* areas include small rooms with few windows, on the lowest floor of the building, and at the interior of the building, such as restrooms, locker/shower areas, basement gymnasiums, and closets.
- b. Facility diagrams will be prepared for each classroom/office/work area showing the most direct evacuation route to the safest areas of the building.
- c. Provide training to appropriate staff, including the crisis response team, on how to deal with inoperative communication systems, absence of natural light in a power outage, inoperative devices in a building with students who have special needs, and alarms, heating and cooling systems.
- d. Review "drop and tuck" procedures with students.
- e. Keep a record of all tornado drills performed at the building in the building administrator's office.

Procedures when a tornado/severe thunderstorm watch has been issued:

A tornado/severe thunderstorm watch is issued when weather conditions are prime for the formation of a tornado or severe thunderstorm, but none have been spotted so

far.

- a. Monitor Emergency Alert Stations.
- b. Bring all persons inside the building. Keep students, staff, and visitors inside the building.
- c. Close windows and blinds.
- d. Review tornado drill procedures and the location of the closest safe areas.
- e. Review "drop and tuck" procedures with students.

Procedures when a tornado/severe thunderstorm warning has been issued:

A tornado/severe thunderstorm warning is issued when a tornado or severe thunderstorm has developed and has been spotted in the area. This is a more imminent threat.

- a. Evacuate unsafe classrooms and offices. Teachers take class rosters. Close the classroom door but do not lock it.
- b. Move along inside walls to the safest areas of the building.
- c. Ensure that students are in the "tuck" position.
- d. Account for all students and staff. Report any missing students or staff to the building administrator, when it is safe to do so.
- e. The central office administration will monitor any changes in the weather.
- f. Remain in the safe area in the tuck position until the warning expires or emergency response personnel have issued an all-clear signal.

Procedures after the emergency:

- a. Notify the utility company if a break is suspected in the building gas, water, or electrical lines.
 - b. Check utilities and electrical devices for damage due to any outage.
2. Evacuation. These procedures are for any weather situation which requires students and staff to evacuate the building.

- a. If advised by local emergency management officials to evacuate, do so immediately.
- b. Follow evacuation procedures; teachers take class rosters.
- c. Turn off utilities in the building and lock the doors.
- d. Take attendance after evacuation to the shelter. Report any missing students to the building administrator.
- e. Notify parents or guardians per school district policies.
- f. Stay with the students until released to a parent or guardian.

C. Assault/Fight.

These procedures apply to close contact physical confrontations including fist-fights, knife assaults, and the use of other weapons which require close proximity to result in a significant physical threat.

Procedures:

1. Ensure the safety of all students and staff.
2. Contact the building administrator, police liaison, or 911, if necessary.
3. Approach in a calm and controlled manner. If possible, address the combatants by name and use a distraction to defuse the situation.
4. Control the scene and demand that the combatants stop; clear onlookers.
5. If necessary, contact CPR/first aid certified persons in the school building to handle medical emergencies until local law enforcement agents arrive.
6. Escort the combatants to the office keeping them away from each other and other students.
7. When necessary, seal off the area where the assault took place.
8. Notify the building administrator. The building administrator will:
 - a. Notify the combatants' parent(s) or guardian(s), and when appropriate, the

Superintendent.

b. Investigate by means such as obtaining statements from the combatants and witnesses; deal with the situation in accordance with school district discipline and harassment and violence policies, as appropriate.

c. Notify law enforcement or school liaison officer, as appropriate, if a weapon was used, the victim has a physical injury causing substantial pain or impairment, or the assault involved sexual contact (intentional touching of anus, breast, buttocks, or genitalia of another person in a sexual manner without consent, including touching of those areas covered by clothing).

9. Assess counseling needs of victim(s) or witness(es). Initiate the grief-counseling plan, if necessary.

10. Document all activities.

D. Bomb Threat (to include chemical or biological threat).

A bomb threat should always be considered a real and immediate danger to students and staff and requires an immediate response by the person receiving the bomb threat message. Consequently, all staff should be familiar with the bomb threat procedures established by the school district. No bomb threat will be disregarded as being a prank call.

It is important that all staff be knowledgeable in the procedures to initiate evacuation, in the notification of local law enforcement agencies and appropriate personnel, and in the steps to take before the site is cleared for reentry. All staff should be aware of the location of bomb threat procedures.

If the building administrator determines it is necessary to evacuate the campus, the superintendent and local law enforcement agents should be consulted to determine how parents and guardians can be notified, school facilities can be protected, and crowd control can be provided, if needed.

At least one bomb threat drill should be conducted each school year. Because evacuation of the students and staff is the response used for a number of other crises in addition to bomb threats, staff members will probably not be aware they are evacuating because of a bomb threat. Therefore, it is good practice that whenever exiting the classrooms or work areas for any kind of drill, all personnel should quickly inspect their work area for anything unusual or out of place and be aware of any unusual or suspicious persons on the site.

Never attempt to touch, move, dismantle, or carry any object that is suspicious.

Procedures for bomb threat recipient:

1. If you receive a bomb threat by written message, preserve the note for the police by touching it as little as possible and placing it in a document protector or plastic bag, if available. Go to Step 2.

If you receive a bomb threat by telephone:

- a. Record exactly what the caller says. Activate caller ID where available. Complete the "Bomb Threat Phone Report" and the "Caller Identification Checklist."

[NOTE: The Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Planning Guide has a sample Bomb Threat Phone Report and Caller Identification Checklist.]

- b. Remain calm, be firm, keep the caller talking. Listen carefully to the caller's voice, speech patterns, and to noises in the background.
- c. After hanging up the phone, immediately dial the callback service in your area to trace the call, if possible.
2. Notify the building administrator.
3. Call **911** on a regular phone, not a cell phone, and report the bomb threat.
4. Call the superintendent to report the incident and any action taken so far.
5. **DO NOT** activate the fire alarm since the noise may detonate some bombs. A public address announcement should be made to initiate building evacuation; do not mention "bomb threat."
6. Students and staff may be evacuated from the building and proceed to the designated safe area away from the building. Close the classroom door but leave it unlocked. Teachers take class rosters. Once evacuated, roll call should be taken. Notify the building administrator of any missing students or staff.
7. If the bomb threat message contained a specific time of detonation, the buildings will not be cleared for re-entry until a significant period of time has lapsed after that time, no matter how thorough a check was conducted.

8. When reentry is permitted, staff should once again visually inspect their classrooms and work areas for unusual items before allowing students to enter.

E. Demonstration or disturbance.

These procedures are for dealing with anyone causing or participating in a demonstration or disturbance at the building: individual students, student groups, or outside individuals or groups not associated with the building.

Procedures:

1. Notify the building administrator of the disturbance.
2. During the disturbance, the building administrator will take corrective action, such as:
 - a. Ask the demonstrators to disperse.
 - b. When necessary, notify the superintendent.
 - c. Notify the local law enforcement agency, if necessary.
 - d. Contain the disturbance by sealing off the area, to the extent possible.
 - e. Secure the building, if necessary.
 - f. Shut off bells, if appropriate.
 - g. Relocate people involved in the disturbance to an isolated area, to the greatest extent possible.
3. During the disturbance, teachers should:
 - a. Keep students in classrooms and lock the door. Do not allow students out of the classroom until the building administrator gives an all-clear signal.
 - b. Make a list of students absent from the class.

F. Hazardous Materials.

If a major chemical accident necessitates student and staff evacuation, the fire

department or other appropriate agency will be consulted and may take command and control of the situation.

Procedures for reporting chemical accidents should be posted at key locations (i.e., chemistry labs, art rooms, pool area, janitorial closets). School buildings must maintain Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) for all chemicals on campus. State law, federal law, and OSHA require that pertinent staff are aware of where to access these sheets in the case of a chemical accident.

Procedures for on-site chemical accidents:

1. Determine the name of the chemical, where it is located, and whether or not it is spreading rapidly. Attempt to contain the spill or area around it. Close doors. School personnel should not attempt to clean up or remove the spill – leave that for trained personnel. Refer to the M.S.D.S. for guidance.
2. Notify the building administrator about the accident.
3. Relocate students and staff to safe areas, upwind of the accident. Teachers bring the class roster. Take roll call and immediately report any missing students to the building administrator.
4. Call **911** (the fire department will contact the local hazardous materials team).
5. Seek treatment for any students or staff exposed to the chemical through inhalation, skin exposure, swallowing, or eye exposure.
6. Designate a responsible adult or administrator to meet with fire or law enforcement agents upon arrival. Give them an update, a facility diagram and a site plan when they arrive.
7. Notify the superintendent.

Procedures for off-site chemical Accidents:

1. When evacuation of the area is necessary, students and staff will be directed to a specific relocation area by local emergency management officials involved.
2. If students are evacuated, notify parents and guardians per school district policies.
3. Evacuation may be made to a relocation center designated in advance by a

building administrator if a specific alternative assignment is not made by response agency officials.

G. Intruder/hostage.

Individuals who pose a possible threat could include a sniper on campus, someone who may attempt to abduct or injure a student, or any unauthorized visitor without a legitimate purpose. It may be a law enforcement agency who notifies the school or school district of the dangerous situation, or it may be school personnel who first recognize the danger.

Procedures before the emergency:

1. Implement lock-down procedures to secure the school building, to keep students inside and keep the danger outside of the building away from students and staff. A code word should be predetermined to alert staff when the school building will be secured and lock-down procedures initiated.

[NOTE: School Districts should consider implementing procedures mandating visitor sign in or simply reference already established procedures. See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites) School districts also should reference or consider implementing procedures to minimize entry to school buildings by means of locking all doors after school and outside of regular building hours.]

Procedures for the staff member who sees an unauthorized intruder:

1. If possible, have another staff person accompany you when approaching an intruder that does not indicate a potential for violence.
2. Greet the individual and identify yourself.
3. Ask the individual to identify himself or herself and to state what is the purpose of his or her visit.
4. Inform the individual that all visitors must register at the main office.
5. If the individual's purpose is not legitimate, ask him/her to leave and accompany intruder to exit if possible, or arrange for someone else to accompany the individual.
6. If the intruder refuses to leave or is a repeat offender, warn him or her of the consequences of staying on school property. Inform him or her that the police will be contacted.

7. If the intruder still refuses to comply, notify building administrator or police liaison and give as complete a description of the person as possible.
8. Walk away from the intruder if the intruder indicates a potential for violence. Do not attempt to disarm anyone with a weapon or physically restrain anyone who may be capable of inflicting bodily harm. Monitor the intruder leaving campus, if possible.
9. Call **911** and provide law enforcement agents with as much identifying information as possible (physical description, location in the school building, where the person is going, if the intruder is armed).

Witness to a hostage situation:

1. If the hostage taker is unaware of your presence, do not intervene.
2. Call **911** immediately, if possible. Give the dispatcher details of the situation, ask for assistance from law enforcement.
3. Seal off the area near hostage situation, to the extent possible.
4. Notify the building administrator who may elect to evacuate the rest of the building.
5. The police will assume command and control of the situation when they arrive.

If hostage taken:

1. Follow instructions of the hostage taker.
2. Try not to panic. Calm students if they are present.
3. Treat the hostage taker as normally as possible. Be respectful. Ask permission to speak. Do not argue or make suggestions.

Procedures after the emergency:

1. The Superintendent or designee will handle media calls, questions, and contacts.
2. Prepare a news/information release, as appropriate.

3. Prepare a parent and guardian letter, as appropriate.
4. Hold an information meeting with all staff.
5. Initiate the grief-counseling plan, if appropriate.

[NOTE: The following section is optional. School districts within a 10-mile radius of the Monticello or Prairie Island nuclear power plants have plans for dealing with an accident/incident at the plant. This section is targeted for school districts outside the 10-mile radius with students living within the 10-mile radius.]

H. Radiological incident.

Procedures:

1. The building administrator will notify staff if an accident/incident has occurred that affects the ability of students to return to their homes (if they live within the 10-mile radius of an affected nuclear power plant).
2. The building administrator will activate procedures for the release of students to the emergency contact person, as established by the parent(s) and guardian(s) at the beginning of the school year, or keep students at the school building until a parent or guardian or designee picks them up.
3. Teachers stay with the students until an authorized individual picks them up, if they are not going to an alternate (emergency) location.

I. Serious injury/death.

Procedures:

1. Call **911**, but do not leave the victim unattended.
2. Contact a first aid provider (school nurse) or a member of the crisis response team.
3. Clear onlookers and isolate the victim.
4. Perform preliminary first aid, if trained.
5. Do not move the victim unless an immediate emergency situation dictates evacuation.

6. Notify the building administrator.
 7. Designate a staff person to accompany the injured or ill person to the hospital.
 8. Administrative follow-up may include the following:
 - a. Notify parent(s) or guardian(s) of an injured or ill student or a family member of an injured or ill employee.
 - b. Notify the superintendent.
 - c. Determine method of informing staff, students, and parents, if appropriate.
 - d. Prepare an accident report.
 - e. Initiate the grief-counseling plan, if appropriate.
 - f. Prepare a news media release with the superintendent, if appropriate.
- J. Shooting. These procedures apply to snipers inside or outside of the school building or any other firearm threat that poses an immediate danger. The threat may also result from an intruder or from participants in a demonstration.

Procedures for staff and students if a person threatens with a firearm or begins shooting:

1. **If outside**, staff and students should go inside the building as soon as possible. If staff or students cannot get inside, they should make themselves as compact as possible, put something between themselves and the shooter, and not gather in groups.
2. **If inside**, staff, students and visitors should turn off the lights, lock all doors if it is safe to do so.
3. Staff, students and visitors should crouch under desks away from windows without talking and remain there until an all-clear signal is given by the building administrator.
4. If safe to do so, staff should check the halls for wandering students who are not the threat and bring them immediately into a classroom, even if they are from another classroom. When it is safe to do so, staff should notify the room

that the students were from. If room cannot be contacted notify the office.

5. Take roll call and notify the building administrator of any missing students or staff, when it is safe to do so.

Procedures for the building administrator or police liaison if a person threatens with a firearm or begins shooting:

1. Assess the situation as to:
 - a. shooter's location,
 - b. injuries, and
 - c. potential for additional shooting.
2. Call 911 and give them as much detail as possible about the situation.
3. Secure the school building, if appropriate.
4. Assist students and staff in evacuating from immediate danger to a safe area.
5. Care for the injured to the extent practicable until emergency personnel arrive.
6. Refer media calls, contacts, and questions to the Superintendent.
7. Meet with the superintendent to prepare a news or information release.
8. Notify parents and guardians per school district policies, if appropriate.
9. Hold an information meeting with all staff, if appropriate.
10. Initiate the grief-counseling plan, if appropriate.

K. Suicide.

Procedures for a suicide attempt:

1. Intervene prior to an attempted suicide, as appropriate. Try to calm the suicidal person.
2. Prevent others from witnessing a traumatic event, if possible. Isolate the

suicidal person or victim from other persons. Remain calm and reassure students.

3. Call 911 if the person dies, needs medical attention, has a weapon, or needs to be restrained.
4. Notify the school psychologist or counselor, building administrator, or appropriate crisis intervention or mental health hotline.
5. Stay with the person until counselor/suicide intervention arrives. **DO NOT LEAVE A SUICIDAL PERSON ALONE.**
6. Designate a responsible adult to meet with emergency personnel upon arrival.
7. The building administrator will notify the superintendent and the parent(s) or guardian(s) if the suicidal person or victim is a student, or a family member if the person is a staff member.
8. Determine method of notifying students, staff and parents, as appropriate.
9. Initiate the grief-counseling plan, if appropriate.

L. L. Terrorism (Chemical or biological threat).

Upon receiving a chemical or biological threat phone call:

1. Complete the "Chemical/Biological Threat Phone Report" and "Caller Identification Checklist."

[NOTE: The Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Planning Guide has a sample Chemical/Biological Threat Phone Report and Caller Identification Checklist.]

2. Listen closely to the caller's voice, speech patterns, and to noises in the background.
3. After hanging up the phone, immediately dial the callback service in your area to trace the call, if possible.
4. Notify the building administrator who is responsible for notifying the local law enforcement agency.
5. The building administrator may order an evacuation of all persons inside the school building(s), or other actions, per school district policies.

6. If evacuation occurs, teachers should take the class roster.

Upon receiving a chemical or biological threat letter:

1. Minimize the number of people who come into contact with the letter by immediately limiting access to the area in which the letter was discovered.
2. Seal the letter in a zip-lock bag or another envelope.
3. Call 911 first, then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.
4. Separate "involved" people from the rest of the students and staff for investigation. Involved people are those who had direct contact with the letter or were in the immediate area when the letter was opened.
5. Remove "uninvolved" people from the immediate area. Uninvolved people had no contact with the letter and were not in the immediate area when the letter was opened.
6. Ask "involved" people to remain calm until emergency response officials arrive.
7. Ask "involved" people to minimize their contact with the letter and the surrounding area; the area should now be considered a crime scene.
8. Get advice of emergency response officials regarding decontamination and change of clothing for persons who opened or handled the letter without gloves.

Evacuation Procedures:

1. The building administrator should notify staff and students of evacuation.
2. Lead students calmly to the nearest designated safe area away from the school building.
3. Teachers take roll call after the evacuation. Immediately report any missing students to the building administrator.
4. Students and staff who were "involved" in receiving the threat (by telephone or letter) will be evacuated as a group, separate from "uninvolved" students and staff.

5. The building administrator will announce the termination of the emergency after consulting with emergency response officials.
6. Notify parents and guardians per school district policies.
7. Notify the media per school district policies, if appropriate.

M. Weapons.

If a student or staff member is aware of a weapon brought to school:

1. Immediately notify the building administrator, teacher, or police liaison.
2. Tell them the name of the person suspected of bringing the weapon, where the weapon is located, if the suspect has threatened anyone, or any other details that may prevent the suspect from hurting someone or himself or herself.
3. If a teacher suspects that a weapon is in the classroom, he or she should confidentially notify a neighboring teacher or the building administrator. Do not leave the classroom.

Procedures for the building administrator if a weapon is suspected:

1. Call the local law enforcement agency if a weapon is reasonably suspected to be in the building or on school grounds.
2. Isolate the suspect from the weapon, if possible. If the suspect threatens with the weapon, do not try to disarm the suspect. Back away with arms up. Stay calm.
3. Ask another administrator or police liaison to join in questioning the suspected student or staff member.
4. Accompany the suspect to a private office and wait for local law enforcement agents.
5. Inform the suspect of his or her rights before you conduct a search of their property, if appropriate.
6. Document the incident and report it, if appropriate. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 - Reports of dangerous weapon incidents in school zones.)

7. Notify parents or guardians if the suspect is a student and explain to them why a search was conducted and the results of the search.

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et. seq. (Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance)
Minnesota Stat. Ch. 12 (Emergency Management)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.06 (Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 299F011 (Minnesota State Fire Code)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.30 (Fire Drill in School)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.391 (Health Care, Education, or Lodging Facility)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.452 (Reporting Malicious False Fire Alarm)
Minn. Stat. § 299F.47 (School Inspections)
Minn. Stat. § 609.605, Subd. 4 (Trespasses on School Property)
Minn. Rules, Pt. 7510 (Fire Safety)
Minnesota State Fire Code

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 903 (Visitors to the School District Buildings and Sites)