

This policy ensures that SSDEC schools maintain a comprehensive and effective plan for the safe evacuation of students, staff, and visitors during emergencies, including wildfires. The policy outlines the roles, responsibilities, and procedures for carrying out evacuations, ensuring coordination with local authorities and timely communication with students, staff, parents, and the community.

REGULATIONS

A. School Responsibility:

1. The Principal is responsible for coordinating staff, emergency response agencies, and community resources to implement evacuation procedures. These procedures must align with the school's Emergency Response Plan as outlined in Policy EBC.
2. Schools shall confirm designated evacuation sites and dismissal procedures annually in consultation with the DEA.

B. Evacuation Plan Components:

1. **Evacuation Triggers:** A detailed list of events that may require evacuation, including but not limited to wildfires, fires inside the school, bomb threats, gas leaks, and multi-casualty incidents.
2. **Evacuation Routes and Assembly Points:** Pre-designated routes and assembly points located at safe distances, with alternative routes identified.
3. **Communication Protocols:**
 - Activation of the School Area Communication Centre (SACC).
 - Activation of a Parent Information Point for real-time updates and reunification procedures.
 - Notices posted at school entrances regarding evacuation details and alternate student locations.
4. **Transportation Arrangements:** Pre-arranged transport to safe evacuation sites.
5. **Annual Drills:** Schools must conduct at least two evacuation drills annually, one involving local emergency services.

C. Wildfire-Specific Procedures:

1. Monitor local wildfire conditions and air quality using tools like the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI).
2. If air quality is compromised due to smoke, sheltering indoors may be an option until evacuation is necessary.
3. A “go-kit” with critical student and staff medical information and emergency contacts should be prepared for evacuations.

D. Post-Evacuation Protocols:

1. **Reunification Plans:** Establish designated points where students will be released to parents/guardians.
2. **Support Services:** Coordinate with health services for counseling and medical support.
3. **Debriefing and Reports:** The Principal will submit a detailed post-evacuation report to SSDEC.

References:

Civil Emergency Measures Act

Education Act, s.108 (3)

Amended: September 2024???