

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

POLICY

No. B-3

REVIEWED ANNUALLY

Amended: January 22, 2010

Amended: June 26, 2018

Amended: April 13, 2022

Last Reviewed: April 22, 2025

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Preamble:

An emergency is a sudden, unexpected occurrence requiring immediate action to stabilize a situation. Emergencies affecting school facilities and/or school transportation that may prevent use for an unspecified period of time may include:

- a) fire
- b) threats to school occupants or facilities (i.e. bomb threat)
- c) violent physical incident or threat
- d) school bus accident
- e) severe weather
- f) earthquake
- g) hazardous spills, accidents, or explosions
- h) floods

Policy

The Board recognizes the importance of being prepared for various types of emergencies and the importance that students, employees and parents be knowledgeable about the various emergency plans and procedures and to be prepared should such an emergency occur. The District's first responsibility is to ensure the immediate safety of students and staff by activating the appropriate emergency preparedness plan.

Direct responsibility for what may occur immediately following a response to a 911 call will follow the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) based upon the internationally recognized Incident Command System (ICS) that ensures a coordinated and organized response and recovery to all emergency incidents and disasters. It provides the framework for a standardized emergency response in British Columbia. The Incident Command System (ICS) is used to manage an incident and can be used equally well for both small and large situations. The ICS uses a team approach to manage critical incidents and provides a framework that outlines what should be done and who should be doing it. School and district responses are managed following unified command structures which acknowledge the importance of collaborative control and decision-making. It provides a common language so that school district personnel and emergency responders can communicate and be understood during a critical incident. The ICS is designed to reduce the problems of miscommunication and to increase coordination during an emergency. Within the ICS structure the Site Commander is the school principal or designate, and the Event Commander is the first responders (RCMP or FIRE). To assist and expedite setup, the Board directs that emergency plans and procedures be developed, implemented, and maintained for all school and district facilities and school buses, and that:

- a) all employees shall be informed about the emergency plans and procedures to be followed at their work site, to ensure their safety and the safety of others.
- b) students and employees shall practice the emergency procedures implemented at their school or work site.
- c) parents shall be advised of the emergency procedures developed at the school(s) where their child(ren) are attending by September 30.
- d) if materials and supplies beyond those normally provided by the school district are to be kept on hand to augment the school emergency procedures, then it shall be the responsibility of each school to obtain and maintain such supplies in good order.
- e) this policy shall be reviewed annually.