

Regulation 3516.1: Fire Drills And Fires

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/1989 | **Last Revised Date:** 09/01/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 09/01/2025

Fire Drills

The principal shall cause the fire alarm signal to be sounded at least once every month. (Education Code 32001)

The principal shall hold the first emergency evacuation drill of each school year within 10 days of the beginning of classes. (24 CCR 403.4.2)

Additionally, the principal shall hold fire drills at least once a month at the elementary level, four times every school year at the intermediate level, and not less than twice every school year at the secondary level. (Education Code 32001)

When the principal conducts a fire drill, all students, teachers, and other employees shall be directed to leave the building, which may include: (5 CCR 550)

1. Notifying staff as to the schedule for fire drills
2. Ascertaining that no student remains in the building

As appropriate, teachers shall be prepared to select alternate exits and direct their classes to these exits whenever the designated escape route is blocked.

The principal or designee shall keep a record of each fire drill conducted and file a copy of this record with the office of the Superintendent or designee.

Fires

The district shall identify refuge shelters for all students and staff to be used in the event of an evacuation order by local authorities and notify the fire department or other appropriate local authority of such refuge to prioritize the safety of students and staff. (Education Code 32282)

The identification of refuge shelters at schools in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone shall be coordinated with the fire department or other appropriate local authority. Additionally, each school in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone shall prepare a communication and evacuation plan to be used in the event of an early notice evacuation warning which allows enough time to evacuate all students and staff. (Education Code 32282)

When a fire is discovered in any part of the school, the following actions shall be taken:

1. The principal or designee shall sound fire signals, unless the school and/or building is equipped with an automatic fire detection and alarm system (Education Code 32001)
2. The principal or designee shall call 911
3. All persons shall be directed to leave the building and shall proceed outside to designated assembly areas
4. Staff shall give students clear direction and supervision and help maintain a calm and orderly response
5. In outside assembly areas, teachers shall take roll, report missing students, and provide assistance to any injured students
6. In outside assembly areas, the principal, designee and/or each department head shall account for their staff, report missing staff, and provide assistance to any injured staff
7. If the fire is extensive, students shall be taken to an alternate location for protective custody until parents/guardians can pick them up or until they can be safely transported to their homes

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
24 CCR 403.4.2	First evacuation drill
5 CCR 550	Fire drills
Ed. Code 17074.50-17074.56	Automatic fire detection; alarm and sprinkler systems
Ed. Code 32001	Fire alarms and drills
Ed. Code 32040	Duty to equip school with first aid kit
Ed. Code 32282	Comprehensive school safety plans
Federal	Description
Website	2025 California Wildfire Resources
Management Resources	Description
California Department of Education Publication	Get Smart about Wildfire Smoke – Clear Guidelines for Schools and Wildfire Smoke
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Cross References

Code	Description
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
3516	<u>Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan</u>
3516	<u>Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan</u>
3516.2	<u>Bomb Threats</u>