

# **EVENT EMERGENCY GUIDELINES**

**CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC  
FEDERATION**

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## Purpose

These Event Emergency Guidelines have been developed to work in conjunction with school site and school district safety plans, where applicable. These Guidelines are general in nature and the manner in which they are implemented must depend on the sound judgment of the coach or school administrator at the scene who will be making quick assessments. By their nature, disasters and emergencies are unique events and a decision maker's response to them will almost always involve at least some improvisation.

The Guidelines are divided into two sections. The first section consists of Guidelines to lower the risk of violence or disruptions to an athletic event. The second section addresses responses to specific threats that occur during an athletic event.

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## **GENERAL REMINDERS**

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### **WHEN INVESTIGATING ANY ACCIDENTS OR UNUSUAL INCIDENTS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO:**

1. Note date and time of incident
2. Note the names and badge numbers of officers responding to incident.
3. Get signed witness statements noting name, address, phone numbers(s) and date of birth.
4. Note **ALL** individuals involved and conduct a full investigation, documenting all information in writing.
5. File all required forms in a timely manner with the event coordinator.

## **PART I: PLANNING TO AVOID VIOLENCE AND DISRUPTIVE INCIDENTS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:** Often the hostility of a crowd is the reflection of hostility between coaches or as a result of coaches' actions. In addition, a crowd, or individuals within the crowd, faced with disorganized, confused events, are more prone to become hostile. The following recommendations have the primary goal to prevent or decrease hostility between schools and guide schools to more efficiently conduct events.

### **A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOME TEAM**

The coaching staff and administrators of both teams have significant responsibilities and opportunities to reduce the risk of violence and unsafe conditions at athletic events. However, the Home team staff have more responsibilities because they have more control and knowledge about conditions at their sporting facility. The implementation of the Guidelines listed below will depend on a range of factors, including the history of competition between the schools, the layout and location of the athletic facility, the time of the event and the anticipated number of spectators.

1. Pre-Event Planning: Develop an operational plan for each event. Contact the visiting school as early as possible to discuss the game, including prior and existing school/community problems. Under appropriate conditions, schedule a pre-game meeting to address these issues. Provide the visiting team with directions and instructions regarding the safest routes, parking, seating, dismissal from bleachers and the loading, and unloading of buses and automobiles.
2. Staff Planning: Provide specific instructions to teachers, staff members and volunteers supervising the game. Staff should be readily identifiable. Prevention, not apprehension after trouble commences, should be emphasized.
3. Visiting Team Arrival: Have parking areas well-lighted. Arrange, where possible, on-site parking of visitors' automobiles and buses. Supervise the area and path between the visitors' team bus and the facility entrance. The route of the visiting team to the locker room or their section of the field should not be directly in front of the Home team section.
4. Referees: Referees and umpires should emphasize the importance of keeping the game under control. Give payment to officials before the game. Provide them with an escort both entering the field and exiting the field
5. Scoreboard: Have properly trained adult scorers and timers for officials at games.

6. Game Announcer: The game should be reported without showing overt favoritism to teams or players. Proper language should be used at all times. Announcers can show enthusiasm without losing control. Under no circumstances should the officials' decisions be criticized, directly or indirectly.

7. Concession Stands: Where appropriate, separate concession stands should be employed, one for visitors and one for the home crowd. This rule should also apply to restrooms.

8. Conduct of Game: Provide for supervision of spectators during halftime. Efforts should be made to direct the crowd, keep spectators off the field, and keep the under-the stand area clear.

9. Disruptive Individuals: If a disruptive individual will not take direction, that person should be promptly removed. Noisemakers and drunkenness should not be permitted and, if found, addressed quickly.

10. Area outside of Venue: Areas immediately outside of the venue should be kept clear of unassociated persons.

11. Exiting the Venue: Arrange for supervision to continue until students have left the area, including the team bus.

## **B. GUIDELINES FOR VISITING TEAMS**

1. Contact the administrators of the Home Team to establish routes, parking information, entering and exit gates.

2. Have adequate faculty and administrative presence at the game.

3. Provide students information about parking, entrance, seating and exiting.

4. Check on the amount of time allotted for halftime activities and strictly adhere to those time limits.

## **C. GUIDELINES FOR BOTH TEAMS**

1. Players should refrain from showing surprise or irritation at a call by an official.

2. "Playing to the crowd" can cause trouble- particularly in basketball, where the players' facial expressions are clearly visible to the bench and stands. Players should not communicate with spectators.

3. Players on the bench should not heckle the opposing team.

4. Unsportsmanlike gesturing or the harassment of individual players should be avoided.



## **PART II: SPECIFIC THREATS**

### **A. INJURIES AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

Call 911. If you are alone, call 911 first and then return to the victim. Stay on the line until the 911 operator gives you permission to hang up the phone. Tell the operator exactly which entrance to use to your facility/site and exactly where you are located in the facility/site.

1. Lend any assistance to the victim that you are able and qualified to do. Do not move the victim if there is a chance of back or neck injury.
2. Make sure that someone is at the entrance to meet the emergency vehicle and escort the rescue personnel to the victim.
3. Contact your immediate supervisor.
4. Provide as much information to the rescue personnel that you can regarding the onset of the illness or injury.
5. If the medical emergency is caused by accidental injury, interview witnesses and get as much information as possible.
6. Contact the parents/guardians immediately.
7. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

### **B. FIRE**

1. Call Fire Department.
2. If fire is small in nature, extinguish it with a fire extinguisher.
3. If fire is large in nature or uncontrollable, pull the fire alarm, call 911 and immediately evacuate the building of all students and staff according to your pre-determined crisis plan. Close all doors and windows behind you, but do not lock them.
4. Do not touch anything on your way out.
5. Do not use the elevators.
6. If you smell something burning, immediately notify the site directors who will notify on-site engineering personnel to investigate.
7. Contact your immediate supervisor.

8. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

### **C. EARTHQUAKE:**

#### **(A) Indoor Event: Basic Rule is Drop, Cover, Hold and Wait**

1. At the first indication of ground movement, you should drop to the ground. It may soon be impossible to stand upright during the earthquake. Getting to the ground will prevent you from being thrown to the ground and will allow you to assist your team and spectators more quickly.
2. If you are in grandstand, grab hold of seats, railing or other fixture. Move away from the side of the grandstands
3. If you are in an open area, such as a basketball court or swimming pool area, move to the area in front of an interior wall, especially interior corners, kneel and clasp your hand behind your neck.
4. Protect your eyes from flying glass and debris with your arm covering your eyes.
5. After ground movement ends, check for injuries and safely evacuate the building after counting to at least 60. (Many aftershocks occur in the first 60 seconds after the main quake).
6. Please note: It is intuitive and natural for individuals to flee the scene of an earthquake, because flight is a reasonable response to other types of disaster such as fire. This generalized flight response is generally unsafe in the context of an earthquake. California School buildings are built to exacting earthquake standards, otherwise known as the Field Act. As a general proposition the safest place to be on a school site during an earthquake is inside a school building. Most injuries occur when people move to different locations or move to another place in the building.
7. To the extent possible, quiet the crowd to control panic. It is often the case that most injuries during an earthquake do not occur from a structural failure of a building but injuries sustained by person exiting the building, who are struck from falling glass, debris and architectural or lighting elements. (It is a unfortunate fact that architectural elements and lighting fixtures are not inspected to the same level of scrutiny as structural elements.) The area of significant danger is in the "fall zone", the 10 to 20 wide perimeter of a building where objects can fall and strike those below. If possible send someone to "scout" this perimeter around the exit before the general evacuation commences.
8. Move to a safe, open area, away from power lines and other overhead hazards.

#### **B. Outside Event: DROP AND COVER AND STAY OUTSIDE**

1. Assess where you are. If you are near overhead lines, trees or buildings, move away from them. If they are not near you, drop to the ground and cover the back of your neck with your hands.
2. Do not enter any buildings until it is determined safe to do so.

### **C. Traveling to a School Event: STOP SAFELY**

1. Pull the Bus or vehicle to the side of the road and stop, unless the conditions found in 2 below, apply.
2. If the bus or vehicle is on a bridge, overpass, or under power lines, continue until these dangers are cleared.
3. Wait until the ground movement stops, then check for injuries. Be aware of aftershocks, downed wires or roads blocked by debris. Check radio for emergency broadcast. Even if road is apparently safe, proceed slowly.

### **D. SEVERE WEATHER**

1. If the tornado sirens are sounded, immediately proceed to the designated shelter area in your building.
2. If inside, stay away from glass windows and doors and the perimeter of the building. Sit as near to the wall as you can get.
3. If you are inside, do not use the phones during an electrical storm.
4. If the building is moving, assume the duck and cover position with your head between your knees and your hands locked over your head.
5. If severe weather occurs while you are outside with students, immediately seek shelter in a building. If none is available, keep students away from trees if you are in an electrical storm. If a tornado is threatening, go to the lowest area of land and lie down.
6. Keep students as calm as possible and speak in reassuring tones.
7. Contact your immediate supervisor.
8. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

### **E. SHOTS FIRED: RUN, HIDE AND FIGHT IF NECESSARY**

**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS: Most mass shooting incidents are over within 10-15 minutes. Your plan for safety should be designed for the short duration survival of you and**

**those around you. Your main challenge is to quickly process the fact that you in such an incident and to not freeze in place. A flawed plan for escape is better than no plan at all.**

### **A. Outside Event**

1. During the initial firing, immediately lie on the ground.
2. Immediately assess, to the extent you can, the nature of the threat.
3. If the shooter is in your vicinity, run and encourage others to run
4. If you are in an open area, run in a zigzag pattern, bending over as much as you can.
5. Keep others from entering into the area.
6. Seek shelter if you cannot outrun the shooter. Any feature that can be used block gun fire should be considered, including walls, planters or trees.
7. Call 911 as soon as safety permits.
8. As soon as possible, evacuate patrons to a safe area, preferably into a building.
9. Remain calm and as observant as possible. Be ready to describe the shooter, the weapon, a vehicle tag number, etc. to police when they arrive.
10. Be ready to describe the situation and request medical aid if necessary.
11. **Do not confront the shooter unless the circumstances present no other option:** In most cases, the shooter will leave after the initial assault.
12. After shots are no longer being fired, check for injuries.
13. Contact your immediate supervisor.
14. Contact parents/guardian.
15. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

### **B. Inside a Building**

1. Tell everyone to get on the floor or behind furniture and remain quiet. Activate crisis procedure plan.

2. If you are in a confined area, such as a locker room, lock the doors and, if possible, move out of view of windows. Blockade locked doors as best you can.
3. If you are confined indoors, turn out the lights and mute your cell phone.
4. Call 911. Be ready to describe the situation and request medical aid if necessary.
5. Remain calm and as observant as possible – be ready to describe the shooter and the weapon to police when they arrive.
6. **Do not confront the shooter unless the circumstances present no other option:** In most cases, the shooter will leave after the initial assault.
7. After shots are no longer being fired, check students for injuries.
8. Keep students calm and wait for assistance to arrive.
9. If shooter has left the building, do not permit anyone to enter until assistance arrives.
10. Contact your immediate supervisor.
11. Contact parents/guardians immediately.
12. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

### **C. Fight Option**

1. If you cannot escape or hide, and lives remain at stake, fight the intruder
2. The goal is to incapacitate the shooter.
3. Use extreme aggressiveness and improvise your weapons, including fire extinguishers, and chairs.

## **F. WEAPONS WITHOUT SHOOTING**

### **A. Suspected Weapon On The Premises**

1. Call 911.
2. **Do not confront the individual.**

3. Try to keep patrons away from the area until police arrive. If this is not possible, observe the suspect from a reasonable distance until police do arrive. Activate lock down procedures if necessary.
4. If the suspect leaves the premises, try to watch and determine the direction. Be ready to give police as complete a description as possible including vehicle tag number.
5. Contact your immediate supervisor.
6. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

## **B. Observed Weapon On The Premises**

1. Seek assistance from another staff member or supervising adult in reporting the incident.
2. Discreetly call 911 if the suspect is not present.
3. Provide a physical and clothing description and the last known direction of travel of the individual.
4. **IN ALL CASES – USE EXTREME CAUTION. DO NOT CONFRONT THE SUSPECT.**

## **G. SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR**

1. Approach the individual and ask if you can help.
2. If the individual does not appear to have legitimate business on the premises, ask the person to leave.
3. If the individual does not leave and/ or the suspicious behavior continues, call 911.
4. Contact your immediate supervisor.
5. Continue to observe the individual until police arrive.
6. Be ready to give police as complete a description of the behavior as possible.
7. Do not become involved in a confrontation with the individual.

8. If the behavior seems potentially threatening to your students, remove them to a safer area.
9. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

## **H. CHILD ABUSE**

1. Immediately record the suspected child abuse/neglect in daily log.
2. All staff are mandatory reporters and must report the suspected child abuse/neglect to law enforcement (including a school police department) on the day that it is observed and recorded and no later than 72 hours after the reasonable suspicion is formed.
3. Program Director must contact the Child Welfare Organization for parents/guardians, when appropriate, about observed abuse or neglect within 24 hours of the observation.
4. Staff must record all observations, phone calls and contacts made.
5. If immediate help is required, call Police Department or 911.
6. Contact your immediate supervisor.
7. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

(Remember: All information about children and families is **confidential**)

### **Definitions Of Child Abuse:**

1. **Physical Abuse** – any injuries from shaking, beating, striking, burning. Any suspected sexual abuse.
2. **Physical Neglect** – failure to provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, medical attention or proper supervisor

## **I. PERSONNEL HARASSMENT**

1. Remain Calm.
2. Do not respond to the person in a confrontational manner
3. Involve your direct supervisor.
4. Ask and allow person to explain situation.
5. Listen and show concern.
6. If situation remains confrontational, ask the person to leave.
7. If you feel that you are in danger, call 911.
8. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

#### **J. POWER OUTAGE**

1. Remain calm.
2. If participants are in danger, stop activity and move them to a safe place.
3. Contact your immediate supervisor. Notify the on-site maintenance staff.
4. Ask site personnel for available flashlight.
5. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

#### **K. MISSING CHILD**

1. Remain calm.
2. Inform your immediate supervisor and all staff members that the child is missing and direct staff and participants to meet in an assigned area or room. (Pre-determined procedures should be in place for the remainder of the program hours.)

3. Previously designated staff should stay with participants while the remaining staff search the building. Check all inside spaces of the building and conduct a thorough search of the grounds.
4. Notify the police at 911.
5. Notify the parent/guardian. Ask questions of the parent such as:
  - Does s/he know how to ride the bus?
  - Does s/he have any money?
  - Are there any places in the area that the child is familiar with such as a playground or picnic area?
  - Are there any relatives or friends in the area where the child would be likely to go?
6. Gather all vitals – Picture or description, registrations/applications and clothes child was wearing. The police will need this information to assist in finding the child as quickly as possible.
7. If you or your staff assists in the search, ask neighbors for help. Many people are able and willing to do whatever it takes to help find a missing child.
8. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

## **L. ABDUCTION**

- 1. Remain Calm**
2. Call 911.
3. Report abduction, or attempted abduction to your immediate supervisor.
4. Note the person's appearance and any other information about him or her (voice, clothing, vehicle type, license plate number, etc.) that might be helpful to police.
5. If the person is seen taking the child into an automobile, note the color and make of automobile and attempt to memorize the license plate or at least a portion of it. Note the direction or street the automobile is traveling.

6. Treat custody dispute problems as a possible child abduction.

#### **M. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (Drugs/Alcohol)**

1. Be ready to provide as complete a description of the suspect as possible.
2. Call 911. Give 911 operator as complete a description of the suspect, the behavior, the type of controlled substance, if known, and vehicle tag number.
3. **Do not approach the suspect.**
4. If suspect leaves before police arrive, note the direction, type of vehicle, etc. Do not attempt to follow the suspect.
5. Call your immediate supervisor.
6. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

#### **N. SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

1. If a student reports to you that s/he has been approached in an inappropriate fashion by another person, take the student to a private area with another staff member for an interview. **All allegations** of sexual harassment, regardless of the nature, must be investigated.
2. Determine by questioning, as gently as possible, exactly what happened. Ask the victim questions like:
  - What did the person say?
  - What did the person do that made you feel uncomfortable?
  - When did this happen?
  - How long has this been going on?
3. Inform the parents/guardians immediately of the alleged sexual harassment.

4. Interview the alleged aggressor. If a patron, proceed with the questioning. If an employee, wait for your supervisor to arrive to conduct the interview.
5. *If allegations of **physical touching**, CALL POLICE and your immediate supervisor. **Sexual Assault Procedures** should be initiated (see page 12).*

## **O. SEXUAL ASSAULT**

1. Isolate and secure the victim and the assault area.
2. Call 911.
3. Do not leave the victim alone. Ensure the victim is in a safe place, and assist in making them comfortable.
4. Remain calm and reassure patrons that all possible actions are being take to care for the injured person and to protect others.

### **Note: For Sexual Assaults:**

1. Notify supervisor.
2. Attempt to dissuade the victim from washing, cleaning up or use of the restroom if possible.
3. Provide the victim with privacy.
4. Secure the crime scene. Protect any potential evidence.
5. **DO NOT USE THE VICTIM'S NAME** on two-way radios or release the victim's identity to anyone other than the lead administrator or law enforcement officials.
6. Remember that sexual assaults are very serious crimes. Do not attempt to conduct an investigation, question victims, witnesses or suspects and do not disturb any potential physical evidence.
7. Assist law enforcement officials as requested.
8. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

## **P. TACTICAL SITUATION**

1. If inside, take all participants to a central area. Keep away from windows and doors and secure all entry doors.
2. If outside and time permits take all participants to an indoor central location.
3. Call your supervisor immediately – they will determine who to contact.
4. Call parents/guardian to inform them of the situation.
5. Do not release anyone until the police say it is safe to do so.
6. Do not release any information to the media. Let the police or a public relations representative have that responsibility.
7. Complete the incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

## **Q. BOMB THREATS**

### **ALL BOMB THREATS MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY**

1. Remain calm. Keep your voice steady. Do not alarm the caller.
2. DO NOT try to transfer the call. Don't risk losing the call.
3. Record call if possible.
4. Treat the call like any normal order of business. You need to act quickly to get information. **ASK.....**
  - **WHEN** will the device explode?
  - **WHERE** is the device?
  - **WHAT** kind of device is it?
  - **WHAT** does it look like?

- **WHY** did you place the device?
  - **WHO** are you?
5. Try to keep the caller on the line as long as possible. Take notes while you are talking. Attempt to note.....
- Time of call
  - Exact words of caller
  - Male or female sounding voice
  - Is there a detectable accent
  - Voice tone, pitch, meter
  - Speech skills, inflections
  - Is the voice familiar
  - Background noise
  - Time the call is terminated
6. CALL 911 immediately. Answer all questions asked of you. Follow any instructions give by the 911 operator.
- **DO NOT TOUCH SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS.**
  - **DO NOT USE TWO –WAY RADIOS, CORDLESS PHONES, OR ANYTHING ELSE.**
  - **DO NOT TURN ANYTHING ON OR OFF – ESPECIALLY LIGHTS**
7. Contact your immediate supervisor
8. Complete an incident report form and forward it to your immediate supervisor.

DO NOT tell anyone about the Bomb Threat. Trained law enforcement officials will provide instructions.

**For Those Individuals Aware Of The Bomb Threat:**

**DO NOT PANIC.** Wait for direction. You may hear the fire alarm sound. It is common to initiate a fire drill in these situations to encourage an orderly exit. The goal is to avoid panic. Mass panic has the potential to result in disaster, including serious injury and /or death.