

SCHOOL FIRE EXIT DRILLS

The first essential in the event of a fire in any school is to have the pupils leave the building in an orderly manner and to reach a point of safety without injury. Fire exit drills, if properly conducted, not only secure the orderly and rapid evacuation of the building, but teach self-control as well. To this end the administrators, teachers, and custodians, as well as pupils, should participate in the fire exit drills and conform to the rules established.

It is suggested that drills be conducted every two weeks and be so arranged as to accustom the pupils to the use of the various exits provided. The principal or other person in charge of a school drill should keep a record of the date of each drill and the time required to empty the building.

Teachers should sound the alarm on any indication of fire.

In the organization of fire exit drills, effective use has been made of pupils as monitors, thus making the drill an activity of real interest to the student body. When the alarm is sounded, pupils and all other occupants rise and file out without books, hats, or wraps, walking rapidly but not running. No talking or pushing is allowed. When lines are at least 50 feet away from the building and clear of fire hydrants, the pupils face the building but remain in line. Room monitors or teachers in lower grades should stand inside the door of their respective room until all occupants are out, close the door, report the number of the room to the school monitor, and take their places in their room line. Other monitors inspect halls, toilets, cloakrooms, and report to the school monitor who is stationed at the main exit with pad and pencil to check all occupants as the building is emptied by reports given by respective room monitors.

An additional suggestion is that the system of checking the room numbers as a means of ascertaining if everyone has left the building be supplemented by a prompt room count.

Recommended by:

Fire Chief
