



Pete Ricketts, Governor

School Fire Drill Requirements

While the ongoing health emergency affects everyone, including administrators, teachers and students it is important to remember that fire prevention and fire safety must be practiced. Emergency egress drills (fire drills that include building evacuation) are an important component of student safety. Per state statute 81-527 all schools are required to conduct regular fire drills. This requirement will remain in effect even in light of social distancing and health safety mandates.

For your information and reference, below are the Nebraska Life Safety Code requirements for fire drills in schools.

Plain Language Requirements (refer to LSC 15.7.2.2 – 15-7.2.4 for Code language):

1. Each school or facility must conduct one fire drill with emergency egress (building evacuation) per month when schools are in session. There is an exception for harsh weather conditions that will allow you to defer a fire drill, but you have to conduct four fire drills before that is even an option.
2. All people that are in each of your buildings are required to participate in the fire drill.
3. You have to have your first fire drill within your first 30 days of operation.
4. When conducting a drill, the school's installed fire alarm system must be used to sound the alarms and to initiate evacuation.
5. After a location conducts a minimum of four fire drills with emergency egress (building evacuation), there is an option that will allow that location to establish an approved* training and practice program for the practice of emergency egress to familiarize all occupants with the drill procedure, and to ensure that emergency egress is learned and known by all occupants as a matter of routine.

*Training and Practice programs must be approved in writing by the local fire department, and/or by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office prior to being put into practice.

COVID-19-Related Acceptable Alternatives

- It is acceptable for a school to use methods to maintain social distancing during fire drills such as floor marking.
- In order to minimize the number of students, staff and visitors in the hallways and at the gathering areas during the conduct of a fire drill, it is acceptable during the COVID-19 state of emergency to conduct the monthly fire drills in phases so that only certain grades, classrooms or areas participate in any single fire drill. When phased fire drills are conducted, all occupants of the location must participate in a fire drill, and all drill phases shall be complete no later than two calendar days after the first phased drill was conducted.
- Prior to an alternative fire drill procedure, whether phasing or another proposed alternative, being used, the local fire department and/or the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office shall review and approve the procedure in writing prior to its first use.

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