

Fire Safety Module for Teachers (Based on NDMA & Best Practices)

Introduction & Rationale

Fires are rapid-onset hazards that can cause severe injuries and property damage. Schools must prioritize fire safety through prevention, preparedness, and effective response protocols. This module aligns with NDMA guidelines and international best practices to equip teachers with responsibilities and actions before, during, and after a fire emergency.

Before a Fire (Preparedness)

- Familiarize with the school's fire safety plan and evacuation routes. - Ensure fire extinguishers and alarms are in working order; report faulty equipment. - Keep corridors, exits, and stairwells clear of obstructions. - Conduct regular fire safety training with students (stop, drop, cover if clothing catches fire; evacuate calmly if alarm sounds). - Maintain classroom emergency kits and updated contact lists.

During a Fire (Response)

- If you detect smoke/fire, raise the alarm immediately and call emergency services. - Instruct students to leave belongings; follow the nearest safe exit. - Use the evacuation route; do not use elevators. - If clothing catches fire, instruct the student to stop, drop, and roll; smother flames with blanket if available. - If smoke is heavy, stay low; cover nose and mouth with cloth.

After a Fire (Recovery & Safety Check)

- Move students to the designated assembly area and conduct headcount. - Report injuries and call for medical assistance if needed. - Do not re-enter the building until structural and safety clearance is given. - Participate in debriefing and update the fire safety plan based on lessons learned.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Lead and calm students, perform roll call, and liaise with the school's incident command team. - Keep records of injuries and missing students. - Ensure that fire prevention measures (electrical safety, safe storage of flammable materials) are observed in the classroom.

Drills & Training

- Conduct at least one full fire drill each term; vary times and scenarios. - Review evacuation bottlenecks and refine routes. - Coordinate with local fire services for periodic demonstrations and training.

Do's & Don'ts

- Do keep exits clear, practice drills, and teach students to evacuate calmly. - Don't open doors that are hot to touch; don't return for belongings; don't use elevators.

References & Credibility

This module is based on NDMA guidance for school safety and internationally recognized best practices from disaster preparedness organizations and fire safety standards. Teachers should consult their local school safety plan and fire department protocols for location-specific procedures.