

Benchmark: Adverse Situations

Grand Canyon University- EAD 536

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The main decisions that must be made concern the well-being of the students. It is mid-morning, so considering how a decision will affect the rest of the day's operations, must be kept in mind. Basic student needs are met in school, from lunch to proper heating/cooling; since there is an issue with meeting a basic need, it is critical that we take swift action. To further plan, there is some additional information that would be beneficial to have. For instance, are there any students with health concerns? There may be students in the building who have medical issues triggered by extreme temperatures. Also, what are the district protocols for situations like this? What are their safety guidelines? Knowing this information comes first because we should always adhere to district policies to address adverse situations.

#### *Human, Fiscal, and Technological Resources*

As soon as the issue is brought to my attention, I would get my school's safety team together and begin to plan a quick course of action. The safety team would consist of the school's leadership team, school resource officer (SRO), facilities staff, and any other members that have been designated. Once the facilities manager has informed me that the air conditioning units are down, we would need to immediately contact the district office and determine next steps from there. Issues on this level are usually handled by them. More than likely in cases like this, building evacuation will be suggested as this would be the best solution in terms of safety.

In terms of resources, I would need to know exactly who serves in what capacity on the safety team, because they would need to act in their roles immediately. Some of those roles are based on parent communication, district office communication, and transportation. These roles would be outlined for sure in the school's safety plan.

#### *Safety and Welfare of Students and Staff*

As a district, we have a duty to keep our campuses safe for all who we are serving in the building. If any emergencies should arise and proper protocols are not put in place, the district could be liable for damages, under Premises Liability (Allegion, 2012). Also, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has self-inspection checklists that they suggest all workplaces use when addressing all possible adverse situations. In their checklist concerning indoor air quality, there are items listed pertaining to HVAC and the repair and maintenance, and how to be proactive in operations. (NIOSH, 2014).

In my current school district, school emergency/safety plans are all approved by the district before implemented and finalized on a school level. If students are having to evacuate the school, then staff as well as students would need to follow the procedures as outlined in the school's safety plan. Because this incident is occurring in May, there is a great chance that most students are aware of the school's evacuation drills and how they should be conducted. This would help greatly when the evacuation plan is put into effect, as they also understand that the outcome is getting them to a safer environment.

#### *Collaboration with Faculty and Community*

Students, faculty, and parents are affected by this situation. If students are having to be transported to another school, then operations at the next location will be affected, especially if that location is another school. Some members of our safety team would focus on getting communication out, to both district personnel and families of students. The message needs to go out to them letting them know what the plan is in terms of transportation, pick-up, dismissal, etc. The message should also focus on common language, so that a uniform message is being sent out to the community instead of varying accounts of the situation.

*Solution*

As a solution, I would suggest evacuating the building as quickly and efficiently as possible with an additional suggestion for early dismissal. One factor to consider is lunch, being that this is a K-8 school, most likely not everyone has had lunch by noon. If all students have not had lunch I would need to make arrangements for them to eat, because by law they must have lunch offered and provided to them.

*Action steps*

1. Gather Safety Team (Immediately)
2. Contact District Office and then Transportation Services (Immediately)
3. Inform Staff of Decision and Plan of Action (Upon hearing from district office)
4. Begin Evacuation Procedures and transporting students to alternate location for early dismissal. (Upon hearing upon district office decision)

*Rationale*

Because school does not end until 3:45 pm, we certainly will not make it under these conditions remaining in the school building for another four hours. Evacuating the building and relocating to our designated alternate location is priority in my opinion. This complies with laws and policies, and we would still adhere to all safety plans and regulations. All afterschool activities would have to be cancelled for the day as well. Furthermore, if we relocate to another school, we would need to consider their dismissal procedures, hence my suggestion of giving our families the ability to sign their students out early. We would just need to manage the remaining students until we can work out transportation and communication with their families, in order to plan for where to keep them safely until they can get there. Once we have gotten all students

safely with their families, then we can fully plan how to move forward, pending the maintenance issue will be resolved by the next morning.

Allegion. (2012.) School liability and the law of unintended consequences. Retrieved from

<https://www.dhi.org/Forms/Foundation/School-Liability-and-the-Law-of-Unintended-Consequences.pdf>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. (2014). Indoor air quality: self-inspection

checklist. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/chklists/6indoo~1.htm>