



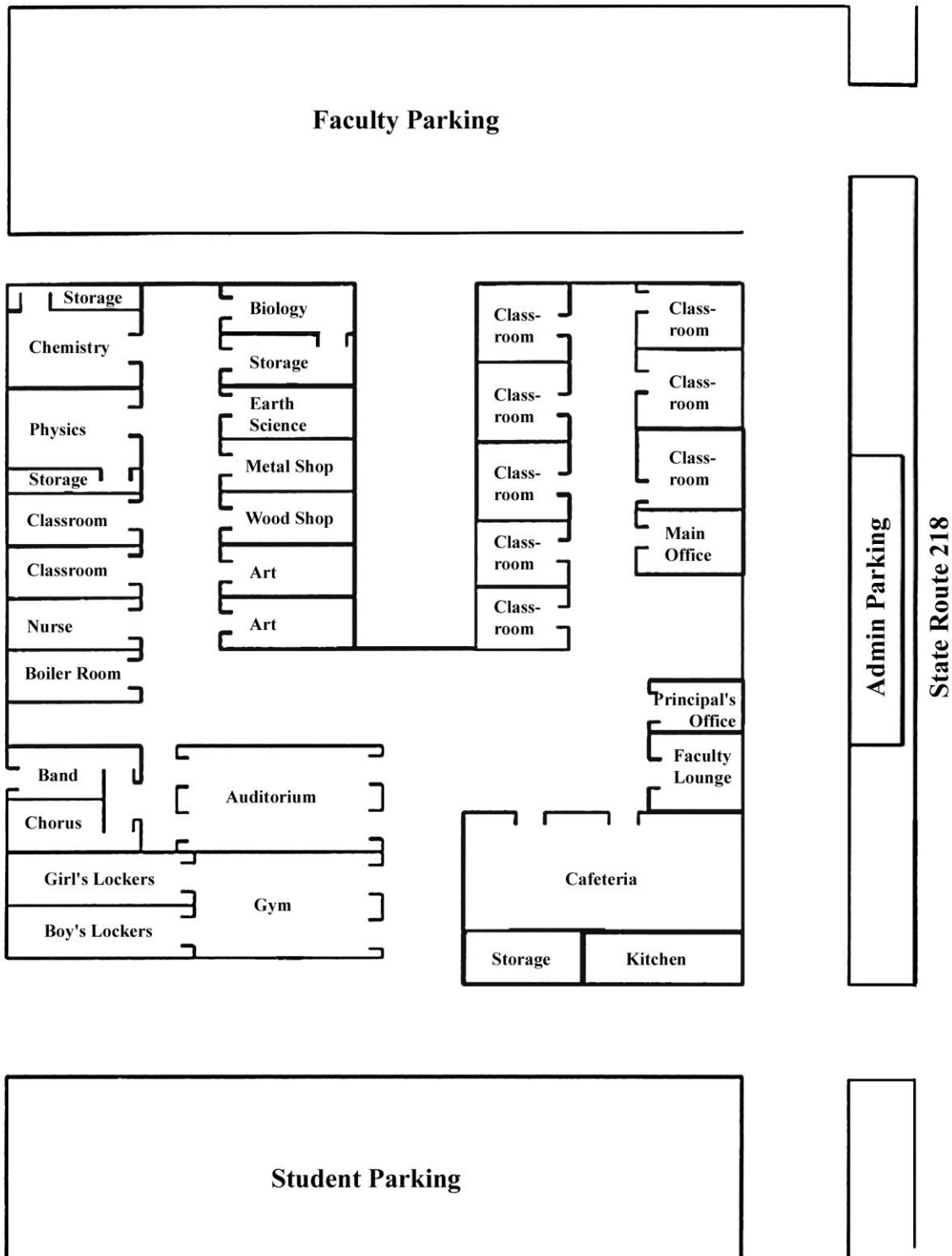
FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO

It is November and a cold rain is falling. The temperature is 55 degrees and the wind is blowing at 18 miles per hour from the northwest. At 10:15 a.m., the Earth Science room is rocked by an explosion. Immediately, the sprinkler system activates and, within a minute, someone activates the fire alarm. For the most part, teachers begin an orderly evacuation of the school but, because everyone knows that, this time, it is not a drill, tensions are high and some students begin pushing to get to the school doors.

Because no one had time to get their belongings, those students, teachers, and staff who evacuate quickly become soaked. There is no shelter in the immediate area of the school. Some students begin walking toward a stand of trees outside the assembly area at the far back corner of the property. Others who live within walking distance begin walking toward home.

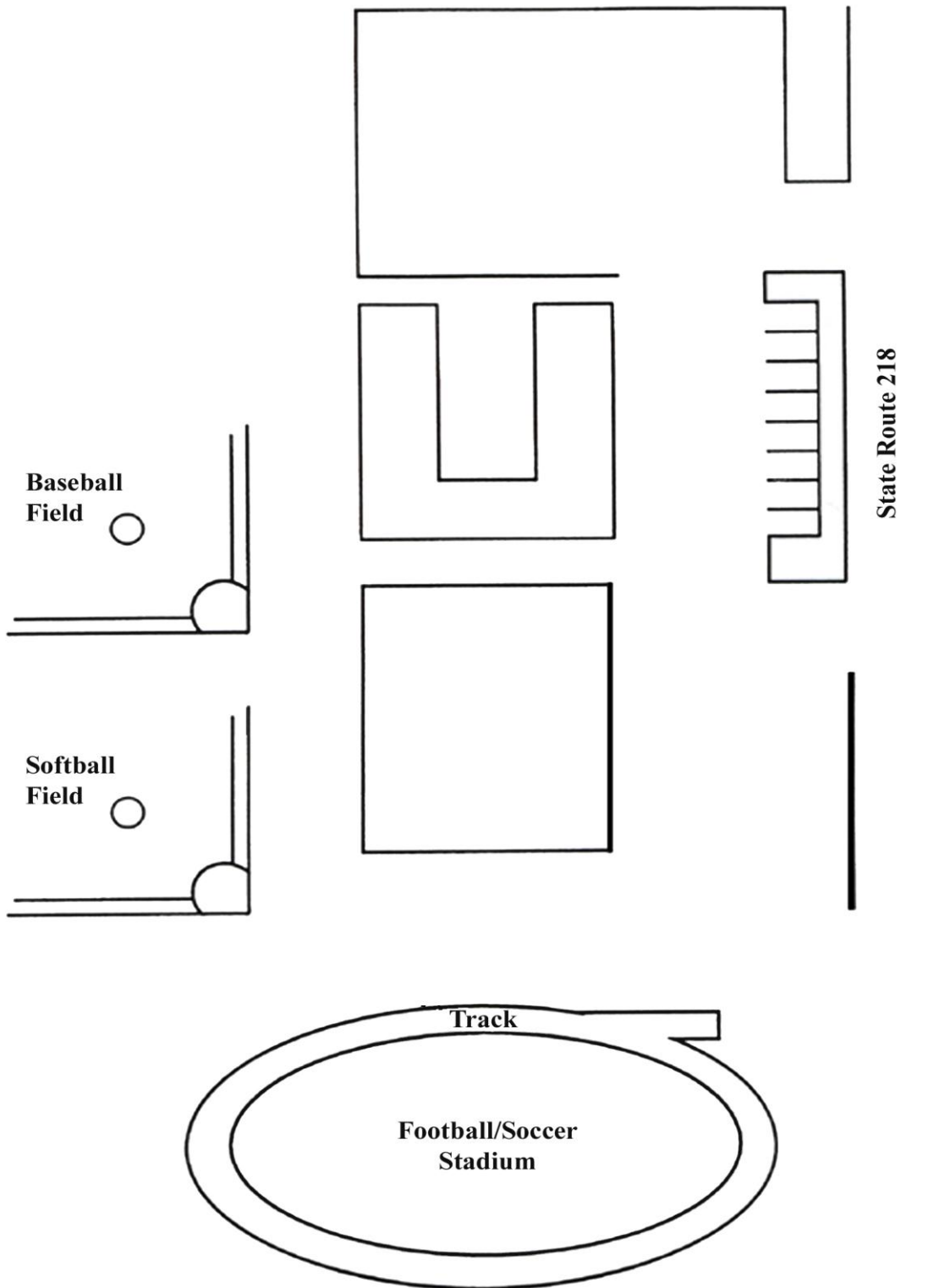


FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO (CONTINUED)





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FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO (CONTINUED)

Scenario Questions

1. To respond to this incident, you will establish your management structure using the ICS model. Draw your initial emergency organization, including personnel assigned to each position (by title), on the flip chart provided.

2. Where will you establish your Command Post for this incident?

3. After establishing command, what will you do first? Why?

4. What is your first concern in this situation?

5. For what contingencies should you plan?



FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO UPDATE #1

+ **DISTRIBUTE THIS UPDATE 15 MINUTES INTO THE EXERCISE!**

It is now 10:25 and both fire and police have arrived. They are beginning to fight the fire and organize search and rescue operations for 32 missing students and two teachers who were in adjacent classrooms at the time of the explosion. Firefighters are having difficulty initially because the fire is being fed by natural gas and is burning strongly, as well as being whipped up by the wind.

The temperature is forecast to drop through the day, with the chance of heavier rain increasing by mid-afternoon.

Update #1 Questions

1. What information will you provide the fire captain as you transfer command of the incident?
2. How does this new information change your planning?
3. How will you work with response personnel throughout the remainder of the incident?
4. What will you tell parents? How will you notify them?
5. What does the fact that the gas was not turned off tell you about your emergency plan?



FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO UPDATE #2

+ **DISTRIBUTE THIS HANDOUT 30 MINUTES INTO THE EXERCISE!**

After checking with the bus company, you find out that it will be impossible to arrange for bus transportation before 11:30 or 12:00. Some buses may not be available until later than that. Several students have started expressing symptoms of nausea.

Not realizing that the school has been evacuated, parents are calling the school. When no one answers their calls, some are coming to the school to pick up their children.

There is a church within walking distance of the school, and the church has a youth recreation center. It is not large enough to shelter the entire student body but may be an option for getting some of the students out of the weather.

Update #2 Questions

1. If the recreation center can be used, what special issues does it raise?
2. How will you deal with parents?
3. For what long-term contingencies should you plan?
4. How can you prepare to deal with the inevitable questions from the media?



FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO UPDATE #3

+ DISTRIBUTE THIS HANDOUT 45 MINUTES INTO THE EXERCISE!

It is 12:30 p.m. and the fire has been extinguished. Some firefighters are still in the building conducting search and recovery operations. At least six students and one teacher are still missing. All were in the adjacent classroom at the time of the explosion. Many others are suffering from severe burns and smoke inhalation.

Damage to the building is extensive. There is a partial roof collapse in the classroom where the explosion occurred. There is also heavy smoke and water damage.

The last students are expected to be transported within the next few minutes. Unfortunately, it became necessary for several to be transported to local medical facilities for treatment due to earlier complaints of nausea.

Update #3 Questions

1. What are your long-term recovery concerns?

2. What insights has participating in this exercise provided you about your school's or district's state of readiness for this type of an emergency? What revisions would you recommend to your emergency plan as a result?