FIRE AND EXPLOSION TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

THE FOLLOWING TABLE TOP EXERCISE IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM COORDINATOR IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS SPECIFIC TO THEIR AFTER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

FIRST, THERE IS THE INITIAL DESCRIPTION OF AN EMERGENCY HAPPENING AT A SCHOOL SITE. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY PERIODIC UPDATES THAT ENCOURAGE NEW THINKING AND PLANNING BASED ON A CHANGING SCENARIO.

TABLE GROUPS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND WORK TOGETHER TO COMPLETE THIS ACTIVITY. EACH GROUP SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A FLIP CHART AND COLORED MARKERS TO PLOT THEIR RESPONSE.

AT THE END OF THE ACTIVITY EACH GROUP CAN REPORT ON WHAT THEY DID TO RESPOND TO THE EMERGENCY.
Fire and Explosion Scenario

It is a partly cloudy day in April. The temperature is 65 degrees and the wind is blowing at 10 miles per hour from the northwest. At 3:30 p.m., the campus is rocked by an explosion. You are unsure of where the explosion has occurred and whether or not it is on campus. You signal to the children in the after school program to gather at the assembly area. An orderly assembly of the students and staff ensues but, because everyone knows that, this time, it is not a drill, tensions are high and some children begin to get visibly upset.

You try to determine where the problem is and what direction you need to go to get the kids to safety. You think about the immediate area and what the potential location could be.
Fire and Explosion Scenario (Continued)

Scenario Questions

1. On the flip chart provided, draw a diagram of your playground. Determine the directions for North, West, South, and East and identify the wind direction.

2. Identify the location of the assembly area.

3. 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 3:45 and both fire and police have arrived. Two children are unaccounted for. Some children are using their cell phones and some of them are crying. The explosion occurred in a maintenance storage room located near the north west corner of the playground. You notify the Incident Commander of the fire Department of the missing children. You are notified by the Incident Commander of the fire department that you must evacuate the school. The fire department is unable to assist with the evacuation because the fire fighters are having difficulty putting out the blaze and their first concern is the missing children. The police are busy securing a perimeter and they, too, instruct you to evacuate.

The temperature is forecast to drop with the chance of showers developing.

Update #1 Questions

1. How does this new information change your planning?

2. Where will you go?

3. What will you tell parents? How will you notify them?
FIRE AND EXPLOSION SCENARIO UPDATE #2

+ DISTRIBUTION THIS HANDOUT 30 MINUTES INTO THE EXERCISE!

It is 4:45 p.m. and the fire has been extinguished. Some firefighters are still in the building conducting search operations.

Damage to the building is extensive. There is a partial roof collapse in a classroom adjacent to the maintenance room where the explosion occurred. The two missing children were found in that classroom and were transported to the hospital with smoke inhalation.

The last students are expected to be reunited with their parents within the next few minutes.

Some have expressed that they are afraid to return to the program.

Update #2 Questions

1. How will you resume operations?

2. How will you help the children cope?

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