
Procedure Section:	Safety
Procedure Title:	Bus Evacuation
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When possible, assign two (2) responsible, older student assistants to each emergency exit. Teach them how to assist the other students off the bus. Assign another student assistant to lead the students to a “safe place” after evacuation. However, you must recognize that there may not be older, responsible students on the bus at the time of the emergency. Therefore, emergency evacuation procedures must be explained to all students. This includes knowing how to operate the various emergency exits and the importance of listening to and following all instructions given by you.

Some tips to determine a safe place to wait:

- A safe place will be at least 100 feet off the road in the direction of oncoming traffic. This will keep the students from being hit by debris if another vehicle collides with the bus.
- Lead students upwind of the bus if fire is present.
- Lead students as far away from railroad tracks as possible and in the direction of any oncoming train.
- Lead students upwind of the bus at least 300 feet if there is a risk from spilled hazardous materials.

If the bus is in the direct path of a sighted tornado and evacuation is ordered, escort students to a nearby ditch or culvert if shelter in a building is not readily available, and direct them to lie face down, hands covering their head. They should be far enough away so the bus cannot topple on them. Avoid areas that are subject to flash floods.

General Procedures

Determine if evacuation is in the best interest of safety.

- Determine the best type of evacuation:
 - front, rear or side door evacuation, or some combination of doors;
 - roof or window evacuation.
- Secure the bus by:
 - placing transmission in Park, or if there is no shift point, in Neutral;
 - setting parking brakes;
 - shutting off the engine;
 - removing ignition key;
 - activating hazard-warning lights.

- If time allows, notify dispatch office of evacuation location, conditions, and type of assistance needed.
- Dangle radio microphone or telephone out of driver's window for later use, if operable.
- If no radio, or radio is inoperable, dispatch a passing motorist or area resident to call for help. As a last resort, dispatch two (2) older, responsible students to go for help.
- Order the evacuation.
- Evacuate students from the bus.
 - Do not move a student you believe may have suffered a neck or spinal injury unless his or her life is in immediate danger.
 - Special procedures must be used to move neck spinal injury victims to prevent further injury.
- Direct a student assistant to lead students to the nearest safe place.
- Walk through the bus to ensure no students remain on the bus. Retrieve emergency equipment.

Join waiting students. Account for all students and check for their safety.

Related RCJTC Policy

P.03 Safety Policy

Related RCJTC Administrative Procedures

Related RCJTC Forms