



Category: Safe Communities

Policy: 5.01

Approved date: April 2016

Fire & Earthquake Safety Policy

Rationale

Seismic experts say we can expect a major, earthquake in British Columbia. We don't know when this will happen. But we do live in a region where some of the largest earthquakes in the world are precipitated. As parents we have a responsibility to educate and encourage our family members to have a safety plan within our homes, so that we are prepared for natural disasters. We also know that people die in house fires every year. Many of those deaths could have been prevented if the families had practiced fire drills and had done a fire safety check in their home. At ASCEND we encourage all of our parents to educate their families in fire and earthquake drills.

Here are some suggestions as to how we can educate our students regarding safety in the home.

Earthquake Safety

When an earthquake occurs, your first warning may be a swaying sensation if you're in a building, a sudden noise or roar. Next, vibration, quickly followed by rolling up, down, sideways, rotating. It may last a few seconds or go on for a few minutes. Be prepared for aftershocks.

You can't prevent an earthquake. But you can:

1. be prepared to minimize injury
2. be prepared to minimize damage to your home
3. be prepared to survive afterwards for at least 72 hours, without help.



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Your family should prayerfully prepare and practice what to do during and after an earthquake.

1. Plan your needs.
2. Delegate tasks
3. Write down and exercise your plan.

Know the safe and dangerous places in your home.

SAFE: under heavy tables or desks; inside hallways; corners of rooms or archways.

DANGEROUS: near windows or mirrors; under any objects that can fall; the kitchen... where the stove, refrigerator or contents of cupboards may move violently; doorways, because the shaking may slam the door on you.

PRACTICE TAKING COVER.

Train members of your family to use fire extinguishers.

Sign up now for a first-aid course, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Check your insurance policy for earthquake insurance.

Making a Family Emergency Plan Just For Kids -

http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/prepare_now/prepare.html



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Fire Safety

Equipping your home with fire safety equipment is your first line of defense if a fire should occur in your home. Fire equipment includes equipment that both warns you in the event of a fire and helps you extinguish a fire. These include the following:

1. Fire extinguishers
2. Smoke alarms
3. Carbon monoxide alarm
4. Home fire sprinklers

Fire can spread rapidly in your home, leaving you as little as 2 minutes to escape. Planning and practicing an “Escape Plan” could save lives.

- 1.. Draw a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your household.
- 2.. Practice the plan night and day with everyone in your home twice a year.
3. Know at least two ways out of every room and make sure that all doors and windows leading outside open easily.



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Learning Activities Outside the Home:

Home education often takes place outside the home. When attending a learning event outside the home it is important to be prepared for the unlikely event of a fire. Before the event parents can communicate an emergency meeting spot located near the learning venue. Students should not only know where this agreed emergency spot is located but should also be familiar with the route to the spot. In addition, at each field trip locations it is important to point out the exit routes to the students.

Please read the following sites and choose suggested activities to do with your students in order to prevent fires.

<http://www.mission.ca/municipal-hall/departments/fire-rescue/fire-safety-prevention/home-fire-escape-plan/>

www.getprepared.gc.ca