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School Safety Considerations in Response to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools are challenged to find ways to return to the classroom while observing social distancing and increased sanitation recommendations. The Nevada State Fire Marshal provides the following guidance to school administrators to assist in providing a safe school environment when students return for classroom instruction.

FIRE DRILLS:

- Nevada offers a unique makeup of schools and districts. From rural to metropolitan, each has its differences; each should determine the most effective method of drills based on the age of the children and specific exiting requirements, while being cognizant of social distancing.
- Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 392.450 requires schools to perform fire drills, active shooter/intruder drills, and severe weather drills in which the various responses would include full evacuation, hard lockdown, soft lockdown and shelter in place.
- The International Fire Code 2018 requires fire drills to be conducted monthly, that they include all occupants (IFC 2018 table 405.2) these drills may not be waived due to COVID concerns as drills are designed to reinforce relocation or evacuation behaviors. The first drills shall be conducted within the first 10 days of the beginning of the school year.
- Emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted at different hours of the day and at varying conditions to simulate the unusual conditions that occur in case of fire.
- Where a fire alarm system is provided, emergency evacuation drills shall be initiated by activating the fire alarm system. This will simulate conditions normally experienced during an emergency.

To promote social distancing during drill fire drills per emergency directives, The Nevada State Fire Marshal recommends that schools and school districts in conjunction with local fire officials and emergency management coordinators be creative in how these drills are performed. One example would be a staggered approach where not every classroom is evacuated during each drill. Another option would be in person instruction, however, this is dependent on the ability of the student to retain the instruction and put it into practice in the event of a real emergency.

ALCOHOL BASED SANITIZERS:

- Alcohol based sanitizers are a Category 3/Class 1-C flammable liquid
- The International Fire Code (Table 5003.1.1(1)) limits the maximum amount of Class 1-C flammable stored in educational occupancies to 120 gallons in non-sprinkled buildings and 240 gallons in sprinkled buildings.
- The International Fire Code (Table 5003.1.1(1)) limits the maximum amount of Class 1-C flammable in actual use in educational occupancies to 30 gallons in non-sprinkled buildings and 60 gallons in sprinkled buildings
 - Hand dispensers maximum capacity shall be 68 ounces
 - The minimum separation between dispensers shall be 48 inches
 - Dispensers shall not be installed above, below or closer than 1 inch to an electrical receptacle, switch, appliance, device or other ignitions source.
 - Dispensers shall be mounted so that the bottom of the dispenser is not less than 42 inches and not more than 48 inches above the finished floor.
 - Dispensers shall not release their contents except when manually activated. Automatic dispensers are allowed provided specific provisions are met
 - Dispensers installed in occupancies with carpeted floors shall only be allowed in smoke compartments of fire areas equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system.

The Nevada State Fire Marshal may provide general guidance in the safe operation of Nevada's educational campuses both public and private. Because of the specific characteristics from county to county, district to district and campus to campus, the

local fire authority is better suited to provide specific guidance with regard to specific emergency evacuation procedures with the State Fire Marshal in an advisory role

Sincerely,



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