

EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO

_____ School is located _____. In addition to the principal, the school has ____ faculty members, ____ full-time counselors, a nurse, ____ secretaries, ____ cafeteria workers, and ____ custodians. On any given day, ____ parent volunteers are also in the building.

This morning at 9:45 a.m., your community was struck by a severe earthquake. The earthquake has caused extensive damage to a large part of the community. All utilities are out. The school is currently lit by emergency lighting only. The area around the school office appears to have sustained only minor damage. Damage to the remainder of the building is undetermined as yet, but one custodian has radioed that _____ has collapsed.

You know from experience to expect multiple aftershocks, some of which may be severe. You also know from attending meetings with local officials that, in the event of a severe quake, it could take up to 2 days before first responders reach the school. You must organize to help yourselves and protect the students.

Scenario Questions:

1. Draw your initial emergency organization, including personnel assigned to each position (by title), in the space below.

EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO UPDATE #1

[Distribute this update 20 minutes into the exercise!]

The area has experienced several aftershocks of moderate intensity. The aftershocks have caused additional collapse in the gymnasium area.

Those who could evacuate the building have assembled in the designated area, and student accountability procedures are underway. The gymnasium has collapsed, and a class that was in the gymnasium at the time has not evacuated. There has been no communication with either the students or their teacher as of this point.

Several students were injured when they were struck by falling debris. One teacher was struck by flying glass and is seriously injured. A custodian has suffered what appears to be a heart attack. Several students who are asthmatic are reporting difficulty breathing, and the school nurse left the building without taking student medications. These injuries and illnesses are overwhelming the staff members who are assigned to the Medical Group.

There are no reports of fires as of yet.

The phone system is out because of the electricity interruption. You can see that a water main two blocks from the school has ruptured. Damage to the community that is visible from the campus looks severe.

Update #1 Questions:

1. How does this new information change your planning?

EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO UPDATE #2

[Distribute this handout 35 minutes into the exercise!]

It is getting late in the day, and aftershocks are continuing. A few parents have arrived but because of the obvious damage in some areas of the community, it is becoming apparent that at least some students will have to spend the night.

An aftershock has caused further collapse of the building, including the area designated as the pickup point for parent/student reunification. A few parents have arrived and are unsure about what to do. One of the parent's children is trapped in the gymnasium collapse.

The custodian has died as has one of the asthmatic students. The teacher who was injured is unconscious and has only a faint pulse. Also, there is still no word on the students and teacher who are in the collapsed gymnasium. Friends of the trapped students are crying.

The aftershocks have caused panic among the special education students who are not entirely aware of everything that is going on and why. Their teacher has sent an aide to the Command Post asking for assistance—quickly.

You have contacted the 9-1-1 dispatcher but all response personnel are currently deployed in other areas. The dispatcher is unsure when trained responders will arrive.

Update #2 Questions:

1. What will you do with the remains of the custodian and the student?
2. What documentation does your school plan require in the case of these fatalities?
3. How does your school plan address the potential liability issue in the case of the student death?

EARTHQUAKE SCENARIO UPDATE #2 (CONTINUED)

9. What will you do about nighttime staffing at the Command Post?

