

**FIRE PREVENTION AND EVACUATION CONTROL IN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

FOREWARD

The New Mexico State Fire Marshal's Office is an agency of the state of New Mexico under the State Corporation Commission (SCC) created by statute and finance by legislative appropriations. The primary functions of the Fire Marshal's Office include the collection and dissemination of information to New Mexico citizens designed to assist them in the prevention and control of fire; to prescribe programs, including fire exit drills, for the teaching of fire safety to all school children; and to determine conditions which are fire hazards. This office is always available for assistance in such matters.

The Fire Marshal's Office also maintains a film library for use in schools, which are cordially invited to use these films to assist in creating a better understanding of the necessity for fire drills and fire prevention among faculty and students.

FIRE DRILLS

Required fire drills are the responsibility of the person/persons in charge of each school. In every public and private school in New Mexico, there shall be at least two fire exit drills held during the first two weeks of a school term and eight additional fire exit drills during the remainder, (allowances for severe climatic effects are specified) – National Fire Protection Association (LSC) 101-31-3.2.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent of schools,, ultimately and the principal of Each school specifically to see that the provisions of the requirements are carried out. The principal shall request the attendance; and make a concerted effort to gain the on-site participation of, a member of the fire department or Fire Marshal's Office at such fire exit drills for the purpose of instruction, and assessment and constructive criticism.

Failure to meet the provisions constitutes a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00). NMSA 59A-52-24 (1978)

The State Fire Marshal; in order to meet the mandates of NMSA 59A-52-7 (1978), and deeming it necessary to accomplish the objectives of fire prevention an dsafe evacuation in schools, hereby issues this Fire Prevention and Evacuation Control in Public and Private Schools.

Every school in the state shall keep a copy of this instrument on hand for referential guidances.

GEORGE H. CHAVEZ
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

DATE

SCOPE

This instrument is adopted for use in every school in New Mexico.

INTRODUCTION

It is the responsibility of the school administrator to see that teachers are acquainted with the fundamentals of fire prevention and that the standards of the NFPA (as identified in Appendix A) be applied. Administrators and teachers should be taught how to use fire extinguishers and other fire safety devices. They should know the fire safety rules, have a broad knowledge of fire safety laws, and know what to do in emergencies. They should know how to teach fire prevention and how to procure resource materials for this purpose. This kind of instruction should be made a part of teachers meetings as many times as necessary during every school term.

It is widely held perspective among fire prevention and safety authorities, that there is much room for improvement in the area of "school fire drills". Although almost every school in America conducts "fire drills"; far to many of those "drills" have continued unchanged for too