

Emergency Situations at School

Information for Families



Montrose County School District is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff and visitors. Please take a moment to review this guide to ensure you are prepared in the event of an emergency situation at school.

What are the types of actions a school might take in the event of an emergency?

Montrose County School District follows the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) by the I Love U Guys Foundation

LOCKDOWN

Ordered when there is a threat **INSIDE the building**. Students and staff are secured **IN** the school. School staff will not answer phones during a lockdown. Parents are **NOT** allowed on site during a lockdown.

SHELTER

Ordered when personal protection is necessary from dangerous weather conditions. May also be ordered in the event of a hazmat situation in the area.

EVACUATION

Ordered when people must exit the building due to unsafe circumstances. If student pick-up or off-site reunification is required, instructions will be communicated by the district.

LOCKOUT

Ordered when there is an issue **OUTSIDE the building**, most often due to police activity in the area that could pose a threat, or a wild animal nearby. All exterior doors are locked while “business as usual” continues inside the school.

HOLD

“Hold in your classroom” is used when there is an issue in a specific part of the building that is under control, but not yet fully removed. Business as usual within the classrooms; doors closed.

- Some situations may require a combination of the actions above.
- School/district staff train yearly on emergency protocols and situation management.
- Students take part in drills throughout each school year.

What emergencies might impact a school?

Which actions are taken?

- **Severe weather** – Schools may **Shelter** until weather passes; could delay release of students at end of day until safe to exit building.
- **Fire or Hazmat Situation in the Area** – **Evacuation** or **Shelter**, depending on location and severity of fire/hazmat issue.
- **Threat of Violence or Weapon on a Person** – **Lockout, Lockdown, or Evacuation**, depending on the situation.
- **Intruder** – Requires an immediate **Lockdown**; an emergency notification will be sent to parents by the district with any instructions.
- **Police Activity in the Area** – Usually a **Lockout**; action may be taken at the direction of law enforcement or any staff member at the school.

What do I need to know, do and not do?

- If you’re at a school and an emergency occurs, follow protocol with students and staff.
- We know families want information right away. Our experience has taught us initial information is almost always incorrect. Please know, our administrative staff are working hard to determine what the **real** situation is and will communicate with families as soon as information is verified as **accurate** and next actions have been determined.
- Do not call the school or district office as staff are working on the situation and ensuring your student’s safety.
- Do not go to the school; this may interfere with procedures. Only public safety personnel will be allowed in/near a school during an emergency situation.
- We understand you may want to communicate with your student during an emergency, however, please refrain from calling; it may prevent him/her from hearing important, possibly life-saving instructions.
- It is **vital** parents and guardians keep their information updated in Parent Portal. We will utilize email, text messaging, and phone calls to communicate with you.
- The **fastest way to get information in an emergency situation** is to check the main page of the district website, www.mcsd.org. It is our first and fastest means of getting messages out. Also, follow us on Facebook (@montrosecountyschooldistrict) and Twitter (@MCSRE1J) for alerts.