

BOMB THREATS

To maintain a safe and secure environment for district students and staff, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's emergency and disaster preparedness plan and/or each school's comprehensive safety plan includes procedures for dealing with bomb threats. He/she also shall provide training regarding the procedures to site administrators, safety personnel, and staff members who customarily handle mail, telephone calls, or email.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 4040 - Employee Use of Technology)
(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Receiving Threats

Any staff member receiving a telephoned bomb threat shall try to keep the caller on the line in order to gather information about the location and timing of the bomb and the person(s) responsible. To the extent possible, the staff member should also take note of the caller's gender, age, any distinctive features of voice or speech, and any background noises such as music, traffic, machinery, or voices.

If the bomb threat is received through the mail system or in writing, the staff member who receives it should handle the letter, note, or package as minimally as possible. If the threat is received through electronic means, such as email or text messaging, the staff member should not delete the message.

Response Procedure

The following procedure shall be followed when a bomb threat is received:

1. Any employee who receives a bomb threat shall immediately call 911 and also report the threat to the Superintendent or designee. If the threat is in writing, the employee shall place the message in an envelope and take note of where and by whom it was found.
2. Any student or employee who sees a suspicious package shall promptly notify the Superintendent or designee.
3. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately use fire drill signals and initiate standard evacuation procedures as specified in the emergency plan.

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)
(cf. 3516.1 - Fire Drills and Fires)

BOMB THREATS (continued)

4. The Superintendent or designee shall turn off any two-way radio equipment which is located in a threatened building.

Law enforcement and/or fire department staff shall conduct the bomb search. No school staff shall search for or handle any explosive or incendiary device.

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

No one shall reenter the threatened building(s) until the Superintendent or designee declares that reentry is safe based on law enforcement and/or fire department clearance.

(cf. 3516.5 - Emergency Schedules)

To the extent possible, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain communications with staff, parents/guardians, the Governing Board, other governmental agencies, and the media during the period of the incident.

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)

Following the incident, the Superintendent or designee shall provide crisis counseling for students and/or staff as needed.

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Any employee or student found to have made a bomb threat shall be subject to disciplinary procedures and/or criminal prosecution.

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

BOMB THREATS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44810 Willful interference with classroom conduct

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion

51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety

PENAL CODE

17 Felony, misdemeanor, classification of offenses

148.1 False report of explosive or facsimile bomb

245 Assault with deadly weapon or force likely to produce great bodily injury; punishment

594 Vandalism; penalty

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

911: A Manual for Schools and the Media During a Campus Crisis, 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PUBLICATIONS

Bomb Threat Checklist

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Safe Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov>

U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:

<http://www.THREATPLAN.org>

Regulation

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VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California