

**HOMELAND SECURITY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY**

# School Readiness Program



## School Physical Security Assessment Program

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is offering a free voluntary physical security assessment of kindergarten through grade 12 schools in NH. This program looks at the physical building and grounds and makes observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities:

- Surveillance
- Access Control
- Emergency Alerting

## Physical Security Capabilities

These three physical security capabilities can be effectively used to increase physical security at schools and serve as a starting point for security measures. All three capabilities are most effective when they are employed together as they form the three-pronged response to a school's security profile.



**A. Surveillance:** Surveillance is a physical security capability that all schools should have. The ability to view surroundings both internally and externally is a key element in early warning and defensive posturing. Surveillance cameras that are visible to the public mitigate the concept of anonymity and increase transparency in and around the school facility. Key leadership and certain administrative personnel should engage in and have routine access and exposure to surveillance monitoring as needed for security purposes. Surveillance monitoring should be located in areas of the school that have the ability to restrict access but not so restrictive that monitoring becomes difficult to access by authorized personnel during emergencies.

**B. Access Control:** Actively engaging/controlling the flow of people into the school facility is another physical security capability that all schools should have. Access control protects against unauthorized persons gaining access to facilities. Access Control involves some level of interaction with school staff that will make determinations about entry/denial. Access control should be layered throughout the building as it will act as an obstacle towards threat progression.

**C. Emergency Alerting:** The ability to communicate within the school using redundant systems is the third physical security capability. Leadership should be able to communicate directions from many locations within the school. Subordinate locations within the building must be able to communicate with leadership as well. The school must have redundant capabilities to make emergency calls for help to off-site emergency organizations and inform the public with official information.

## New Hampshire Law

### 189:64 Emergency Response Plans.

I. Every public, chartered public, and nonpublic school shall develop a site-specific school emergency response plan which is based on and conforms to the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System and submit such plan to the department of education by September 1 of each year. Upon receiving a school's emergency management plan, the department shall provide a copy of such plan to the director of homeland security and emergency management, department of safety. The plan should be documented at the time of school approval review. The plan shall provide that at least 4 of the currently required number of fire evacuation drills shall be emergency, all-hazard response drills of which at least one shall test emergency response to an armed assailant. The armed assailant drill may be discussion based. The types of all-hazard drills and exercises and the manner and time in which these activities take place shall be determined by the school in collaboration with local public safety, emergency management, and public health officials. The school may include students and first responders in all-hazard response drills or activities, as appropriate. The plan shall address hazards including but not limited to acts of violence, threats, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, structural fire, wildfire, internal and external hazardous materials releases, medical emergencies, and any other hazard deemed necessary by school officials and local emergency authorities. The first emergency response drill shall be conducted within one year of the completion of the plan. If the school has a building schematic floor plan diagram, the school may, with the approval of the local school board, submit the diagram to the division of homeland security and emergency management, department of safety, in a commonly used digital format. Submission of the diagram will enable the state to better prepare, respond, and mitigate potentially dangerous conditions should the need arise.

II. Each school shall provide the plan to, and coordinate the plan with, local emergency authorities and with the emergency operations plan in the municipality in which the school is located. Each school shall review its plan at least annually and update the plan, as necessary, and shall submit the updated plan to the department of education by September 1. If after review, the plan is unchanged, the school shall notify the department by September 1 that the plan is unchanged. The department shall provide a copy of any updated plan to the director of homeland security and emergency management, department of safety. The director of homeland security and emergency management, department of safety shall assist school districts in conducting training for and providing support to school districts in the development, implementation, and review of an emergency response plan, as may be needed.

Source. 2007, 92:1. 2014, 87:1. 2017, 14:1, eff. June 16, 2017. 2018, 35:1, eff. July 14, 2018. 2019, 20:1, eff. July 14, 2019.

## Recommended Online Training

- **ICS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System**  
The course introduces personnel to ICS principles and prepares them to interface with local and/or state emergency responders. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>
- **ICS-200.C: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents**  
This course enforces what is taught in ICS-100.C providing training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within ICS. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c>
- **IS-700.B: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction**  
This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-700.b>

## Training & Exercises

- **School safety workshops, trainings, or exercises** available by request.
- **EOP development and technical assistance** available by request.



110 Smokey Bear Blvd. (physical)  
33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305 (mailing)  
**603-271-2231**  
[schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov](mailto:schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov)

For more information:  
[NH.gov/HSEM](http://NH.gov/HSEM) and [SchoolSafety.gov](http://SchoolSafety.gov)



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