



El Nino Safety Tips for After School Programs

CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

1. Check with school administration about:
 - use of emergency supplies in the event of extended “shelter in place” events
 - about the purchase sand bags, if needed, for potential flooding of low lying areas of campus
 - for use of cafeteria, auditorium, MPR, for larger group gatherings for rainy day programming, or “shelter-in-place” events
 - obtain safe walking routes from the school.
2. Check with custodial staff about:
 - potential flood zones on school campus.
 - to learn how to operate the heat in the classrooms, in the event of extended “shelter in place”
 - to see if drains/gutters are clear on campus.

CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS

1. Remind students to wear jackets to school, as it may be cold. Give incentives for students who wear a jacket each day, and remember to wear it home.
2. Teach students about storm/water safety: stay away of storm drains and river channels; do not play near moving water; stay away from downed power lines, trees, stay indoors during lightning, etc.
3. Review safe walking routes to and from program / school.
4. Work with students to memorize their parent’s phone numbers.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PARENTS

1. Update emergency contact information.
2. Discuss storm related safety with your children.
3. Attend the parent event for safety information.
4. Review safe walking routes to and from program / school.

PROGRAM PREPERATIONS

1. Request and collect updated contact information for parents/guardians as well as updated emergency contacts. Get out of state contact information, if available.
2. Purchase emergency supplies for site, suggestions include: Glow sticks, flash lights, extra batteries, Mylar (emergency) blankets, water, and food (granola-type bars), for an extended shelter-in-place event.
3. Restock first aid kits, have general first aid reference guides available.
4. Purchase boxes of large and X-large size trash bags – these make excellent, inexpensive ponchos (make sure you store several pairs of scissors with them to cut the hole for head/arms).
5. Purchase very small trash bags or “doggie” size pick up bags, these can be used to put over socks, but inside shoes, to keep the feet dry.
6. Create a flyer with safety steps for parents, focusing on major storms and/or flooding safety.
7. Provide safety training for staff about how site will operate if a major storm or flooding occurs. Include safety tips for downed power lines, trees, flooding and other potential related risks.
8. Re-train staff on emergency protocols for site. Include protocols for late student pick up, as staff will not be released from duty to go home until all students have been picked up.
9. Remind staff they need emergency pick-ups for their own children as they may not be able to leave the site at their regularly scheduled time.
10. Purchase a battery operated AM/FM radio to get storm and road updates.
11. Have cell phone chargers available to keep cell phones charged, to get updated information, and for emergency calls.
12. Know your rainy day plan for all activities. Have plans for indoor fitness activities. Have plenty of activities available for the youth to stay busy.
13. Have staff members carry extra clothing and shoes in their vehicle, or back pack.
14. Know if your program site is in a potential mudslide or debris slide area; know safe exit routes, and re-location areas.

As we ramp up for a potentially hazardous storm season, preparedness is key. Knowing what to do in the event of an emergency is the key to keeping the staff, youth and parents calm.