

Emergency Drills



922 KAR 2:120

Child-care center health and safety standards Section 3: General Requirements



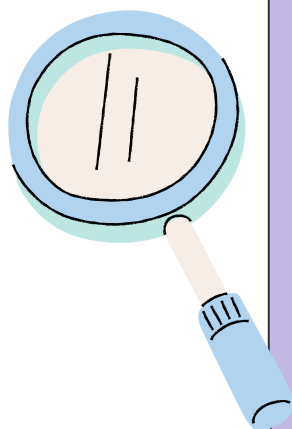
(12) A fire drill shall be:

- (a) Conducted during hours of operation at least monthly; and
- (b) Documented, detailing the date and time.

(13) An earthquake drill, shelter-in-place drill, lockdown drill, and tornado drill shall be:

- (a) Conducted during hours of operation at least quarterly; and
- (b) Documented, detailing the date and time.

Why are emergency drills important?



Emergency drills are essential for staff, children, and families to understand what to do and how to respond in the event of an emergency.

Routinely practicing drills and reviewing emergency procedures also allows staff to identify areas of weakness and adjust accordingly.

In the event of a real emergency, every second counts! It is crucial to take emergency drills seriously to ensure you are as prepared as possible for emergencies.

GO vs. NO-GO

The type of emergency determines how you should react. In some situations, you may need to evacuate or GO. In other situations, you may be required to shelter-in-place or a NO-GO.

Evacuate or GO - You may need to evacuate if conditions outside the building are safer than inside the building. In these situations, you must know evacuation routes, where to go, establish procedures to ensure everyone is accounted for, and have communication procedures in place for emergency services, staff, and families.

Shelter-in-place or NO-GO - In some emergencies, it is safer to keep staff and children isolated and sealed inside the building and away from the outside environment. In these situations, establish procedures for sealing off windows and doors, what to do in the event you have to shelter-in-place long term, how to handle potential evacuation should the emergency change, communication with emergency services, staff, and families, etc.



Know the Difference

Fire Drill - practice what to do in order to leave a building safely if there is a fire. Practice evacuation routes to designated locations and communication procedures.

Earthquake Drill - practice the correct actions to take if an earthquake happens. Actions include staying low to the ground, finding sturdy objects to hide under, and holding on.

Tornado Drill - practice relocating to interior rooms and/or basements and teaching staff and children how to stay low and take cover.

Shelter-in-place Drill - practice how to secure and seal off the facility and keep children safe **INSIDE** during active emergencies taking place **OUTSIDE** the building. (examples: severe weather, active shooter nearby, chemical spills, etc.)

Lockdown Drill - practice where to go and how to safely stay hidden in the event that an external threat, such as an intruder, poses a danger to staff and children inside the building.

