

CRISIS MANAGEMENT – EVACUATION INFORMATION

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In an effort to improve our management of critical incidents, Blue Ridge CUSD #18 is providing the following information to parents/guardians regarding any potential evacuation of any Blue Ridge School(s).

In the event of an evacuation, parents will be notified by telephone, website and/or email of the location of a parent-child reunification site. The District will be utilizing SchoolReach (also known as SchoolMessenger), a parent notification system that allows administrators to deliver messages to parents/guardians quickly and efficiently. This information will be provided via radio and television as well.

This location may be on campus or at an off-site location depending upon the situation. In the event of an evacuation following an EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN, it is likely that law enforcement will establish a significant perimeter around the campus of several blocks. If such an event occurs, an off site location will be utilized for parent-child reunification. As stated earlier, this will be conveyed via the parent notification system and local media.

It is imperative that parents proceed to reunification site and NOT to the school. The reunification site is where all new information regarding the situation will be released to parents. We understand that this will be an emotional time but do not attempt to go to the school. Doing so makes it more difficult for the District and law enforcement to do their jobs during a critical period. Law enforcement from multiple agencies may be responding. They will not recognize you as a parent, and all individuals on campus or approaching the school will be detained as a part of identifying all possible perpetrators and maintaining a safe perimeter around the school. This will significantly increase the amount of time required for you to take custody of your child.

Release of students will be to custodial parents/guardians only. Identification will be required. There will be no exceptions.

Be patient. The reunification process will take time. In the event of an EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN, the District must receive the all clear from law enforcement before the evacuation and parent/guardian-child reunification process can begin. There is no way to estimate how long this will be. It could take hours.

While we are hopeful that we will never have to implement this procedure, we are committed to being prepared and trust that this information will facilitate a safer environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan E. Wilson
Superintendent