

1301:7-7-04 Emergency planning and preparedness.

Chapter 4 of the International Fire Code, 2021 edition, as incorporated by reference and modified in Section 101.1.1 of this code, is further modified as follows:

1. **Add section 402.2 as follows:**
“402.2 Terms used for this chapter. The following takes on exclusive meaning as used in this chapter pursuant to Section 3781.104 of the Revised Code.

Smoke detector. A readily removable device, sensitive to either visible or invisible particles of combustion or both, which automatically detects any fire condition and broadcasts locally a signal or alarm.”
2. **Modify section 403.7.1 Group I-1 occupancies as follows:**
Delete “403.7.1.7” and insert “403.7.1.4”.
3. **Modify section 403.7.2 Group I-2 occupancies as follows:**
Delete “403.7.2.4” and insert “403.7.2.5”.
4. **Modify section 403.7.3.4 Staffing, Exception as follows:**
Delete “International Building Code” and insert “building code”.
5. **Modify section 403.10.4 Buildings using occupant evacuation elevators as follows:**
Delete “International Building Code” and insert “building code”.
6. **Modify section 403.11 Special requirements for public safety as follows:**
Delete “403.11.3.3” and insert “403.11.4”.
7. **Add section 403.11.4 as follows:**
“403.11.4 Apparatus access at carnivals, fairs, and amusement buildings. At all events subject to or permitted in accordance with Section 105.5.3 or 105.5.5, no parking, vehicle, vendor, concession apparatus, booth, or any other obstruction shall be arranged or maintained in any manner that blocks the unobstructed access of emergency response vehicles to the permitted premises or in any manner that blocks the emergency response vehicles from accessing all portions of the permitted premises. The determination of access necessary shall be based upon the size and turning radius of the equipment and vehicles of the permitting entity or authority.”
8. **Modify section 404.1 General as follows:**
Delete “404.4.1” and insert “404.4.2”.
9. **Modify section 404.2.1 Fire evacuation plans, subparagraph 3 as follows:**
Delete “International Building Code” and insert “building code”.
10. **Modify section 404.2.2 Fire safety plans as follows:**
In subparagraph 2.2 after “defend-in-place response” insert “, including the type, location, and operating instructions of temporary door locking devices, if any. However, this paragraph shall not be construed to give the fire code official authority to approve or prohibit the use of any temporary door locking device approved and used in conformance with the rules developed by the Ohio Board of Building Standards”.

Add subparagraph 4.10 as follows:

“4.10 Automated defibrillator devices.”

11. Modify section 404.2.3 Lockdown plans as follows:

Delete “only be permitted where such plans are approved by” and insert “be provided to”.

After “fire code official” insert “upon request”.

Before “in compliance” delete “are” and insert “be”.

12. Modify section 404.2.3.2 Drills as follows:

After “Lockdown” delete “plan”.

Delete “the approved plan” and insert “division (D) of section 3737.73 of the Revised Code”.

13. Add section 404.4.2 as follows:

“404.4.2 An evacuation plan indicating the primary and secondary emergency evacuation routes, and including proper occupant-to-building orientation, shall be permanently and conspicuously posted at the main exit door inside of each room accessible to all persons in all educational occupancies. The plan shall not be obscured from view by any materials.”

14. Modify section 405.1 General as follows:

Delete the entire second and third sentences beginning “Lockdown plan drills” and “Such drills”, respectively.

15. Add sections 405.1.1 through 405.1.3.2 as follows:

“405.1.1 Schools and children’s homes. A principal or person in charge of a public or private school or educational institution having an average daily attendance of twenty or more pupils or a person in charge of any children’s home or orphanage housing twenty or more minor persons shall instruct and train such children by means of drills or rapid dismissals so that such children in a sudden emergency may leave the building in the shortest possible time without confusion. Such drills or rapid dismissals shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

1. All drills or rapid dismissals shall be conducted at the times and frequencies prescribed in this rule.
2. The principal or person in charge of a public or private school or educational institution having an average daily attendance of twenty or more pupils shall conduct not less than one drill or rapid dismissal during each month of the school year as required by and in accordance with divisions (E) and (F) of section 3737.73 of the Revised Code.
3. The principal or person in charge of a school or educational institution that has smoke detectors or a sprinkler system in all classroom buildings of the school or educational institution shall conduct a drill or rapid dismissal not less than six times during the school year.
4. The principal or person in charge of a school or educational institution that does not have smoke detectors or a sprinkler system in all classroom buildings of the school or educational institution shall conduct a drill or rapid dismissal not less than nine times during the school year.

5. The principal or person in charge of a children's home or orphanage shall conduct drills or rapid dismissals at least once each month while the home is in operation as required by and in accordance with division (A) of section 3737.73 of the Revised Code.

A drill or rapid dismissal conducted pursuant to this section shall not be conducted in such a manner that the evacuation of students is in conjunction with the dismissal of students for the day.

In conjunction with the drills or rapid dismissals required in this section, the principal or person in charge of a public or private primary or secondary school or educational institution shall instruct pupils in safety precautions to be taken in case of a tornado alert or warning and shall designate an appropriate location or locations to be used to shelter pupils in case of a tornado, tornado alert, or warning in accordance with Section 408.

405.1.2 Records. While school is in operation, the person responsible for conducting fire drills pursuant to Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code shall file a copy of the fire drill records containing the information required under Section 405.5 and other information required by the state fire marshal for inspection verification with the state fire marshal. When required by the fire code official, such fire drill records shall also be submitted to the firefighting agency having jurisdiction that conducts inspections of the subject facility. Such fire drill records shall be submitted at the middle point and again at the end of the school year. The "school year" includes any time during which the average daily attendance comprises twenty or more pupils.

405.1.3 Intent to conduct inspections of emergency evacuation drill records. Pursuant to division (C) of section 3737.73 of the Revised Code, any duly constituted fire department of a political subdivision of this state may become the designee of the state fire marshal for the purposes of annually conducting inspections of schools, educational institutions, children's home, or orphanage to determine compliance with this paragraph and divisions (A), (B), (E), and (F) of section 3737.73 of the Revised Code as applicable.

To become the state fire marshal's designee, the fire department shall file a written notice with the state fire marshal of the department's intent to conduct inspections of schools, educational institutions, children's homes or orphanages. Such written notice shall identify each school, educational institution or children's home that the fire department intends to inspect specifically by name and address. Notice shall be submitted to the state fire marshal on or before the first day of August of each calendar year.

Any fire department that files a written notice with the state fire marshal of its intent to conduct inspections and becomes the state fire marshal's designee shall remain the state fire marshal's designee and shall conduct inspections for the purposes of determining compliance with this paragraph and with Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code until such time as the department notifies the state fire marshal that it will no longer conduct such inspections. Such notice shall be in writing and shall identify each school, educational institution, children's home, or orphanage specifically by name and address and shall clearly state that the department will no longer inspect. The notice shall be submitted to the state fire marshal at least 30 days prior to the time that the department discontinues its inspection program.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a fire code official's authority to conduct an inspection of a school for the purposes of determining compliance with this code.

405.1.3.1 Inspections. After filing a notice in accordance with Section 405.1.3, a fire department shall thereafter conduct inspections in accordance with the following:

405.1.3.1.1 School or educational institution. The fire department shall annually inspect a school or educational institution for the purpose of determining whether or not the principal or person in charge of the school or educational institution has, in accordance with Section 405.1.1 and Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code, conducted drills or rapid dismissals, has instructed pupils in safety precautions to be taken in case of a tornado alert or warning, and has designated an appropriate location to be used to shelter pupils in case of a tornado, tornado alert, or warning.

405.1.3.1.2 Children's home or orphanage. The fire department shall annually inspect a children's home or orphanage for the purpose of determining whether or not the principal or person in charge of the children's home or orphanage has conducted drills or rapid dismissals in accordance with Section 405.1.1 and Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code.

Upon inspection and a determination that the school, educational institution, children's home, or orphanage has not complied with the provisions of this section or the provision of Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code, the state fire marshal's designee shall issue a written warning to the principal or person in charge of the school, educational institution or children's home. The warning shall indicate the specific violation and the date by which the violation shall be corrected.

405.1.3.2 Jurisdiction. For the purpose of this paragraph, the fire agency having jurisdiction shall be the state fire marshal or any such duly constituted fire department of a political subdivision having filed the written notice of intent to conduct inspections in accordance with this section.

16. Add section 408 as follows:

"Section 408 Tornado shelters in schools

408.1 Pursuant to Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code, principals or persons in charge of public or private primary and secondary schools or educational institutions having an average daily attendance of twenty or more pupils shall designate appropriate locations in their respective facilities to be used to shelter pupils in case of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning. The designation of such locations shall be in accordance with the standards prescribed by the fire marshal, as set forth herein. However, nothing in these rules shall be construed as requiring a school or institution to construct or improve a facility or area thereof for use as a tornado shelter, or to install a tornado alarm system.

408.2 Specific safety requirement.

408.2.1 The fire alarm system shall not be used to alert building occupants of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning.

408.2.2 The principal or person in charge of the school shall submit a clear, comprehensive, detailed, and legible drawing to the local fire code official, showing the building floor plan(s) and designated tornado shelter area(s). Each room or area shown on the plan shall be clearly indicated as to its particular use. A copy of the drawing shall be maintained in the office of each school for examination by the state fire marshal or local fire code official.

408.2.3 The drawing required by Section 408.2, shall be submitted to the local fire code official for his information. A copy shall be maintained in the office of each school, for examination by the state fire marshal or local fire code official.

408.2.4 Tornado drills shall be conducted at least once a month whenever school is in session during the tornado season. For the purpose of this rule, "tornado season" is the period from the first day of March to the last day of July. A record of such drills shall be maintained in the office of each school for examination by the fire code official.

Exception: No tornado drill shall be required in March of a calendar year for any school that participated in a statewide tornado drill conducted by the Ohio emergency management agency in March of that same calendar year.

408.2.5 The occupants of modular classroom facilities shall be moved out of such facilities and to the designated tornado shelter area(s) in the event of a tornado, tornado alert, or tornado warning.

408.2.6 Each local fire code official conducting the annual inspection of each school or institution shall be designated pursuant to division (C) of Section 3737.73 of the Revised Code to verify compliance with the tornado safety provisions of this rule.

408.3 Standards for shelter designation. It is recommended that the designation of areas to be used as tornado shelters be in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Whenever possible, designate areas which are located below ground level, in the core of the building, in rooms or spaces with short ceiling spans, and on the leeward side. The farther the area is below ground level, the greater the protection. In any event, the area should be on the lowest floor, in the center of the building, and in a corridor or small room.
2. First aid kits and supplies should be in or in close to the tornado shelter area(s).
3. Avoid walls of glass, windows, skylights, and areas containing trophy cases or other fixtures of glass.
4. Avoid load-bearing walls and exterior walls, especially those on the windward side or facing the south, southwest, or west.
5. Avoid corridors which are not baffled with a wall or walls and that open to the south, southwest, or west.
6. Avoid an area with only one exit, unless overriding considerations should prevail.
7. Avoid rooms or areas which are locked, since they may not be readily accessible during an emergency.
8. Avoid, absolutely, chimneys and the use of cars, buses, and modular classroom buildings.

9. Avoid rooms or spaces with long ceiling spans, that are opposite openings or doorways that lead into rooms with windows in exterior walls, or that are within the unprotected, falling radius of higher building components.

408.4 General considerations. Every building is different and contains some vulnerable elements that cannot be counted upon to withstand a tornado. Portions of buildings that contain one or more of these elements should be avoided wherever possible.

1. Windows, skylights and other components of glass should be avoided. Glass is no match for tornado force winds and usually breaks into many jagged pieces which are blown into interior spaces from the windward side. Acrylic or poly carbonate plastics are more resistant to impact than glass, but large panes will pop out. Tempered glass will shatter into thousands of cube-like pieces that will be propelled by the winds like shrapnel. Windows at the ends of corridors, particularly those facing south, southwest, and west, are very dangerous. They will probably be blown down the corridor in a wind tunnel effect.
2. Windward side walls, which usually are on the south and west, receive the full strength of the winds. It is assumed that windows on these sides will be broken and blown into the rooms on the windward side. This often results in increased air pressure, which aids in raising the roof.
3. Wind tunnels occur in unprotected corridors facing the oncoming winds, which usually come from the south or west. Openings facing these directions allow the winds to penetrate into interior spaces. The winds apparently occupy almost the entire volume of such a wind tunnel, as debris marks have been found to cover the full height of the walls. If entrances are baffled with a solid massive wall, this effect is much less serious.
4. Lightweight roofs such as steel deck plate, wood planks, or plywood will usually be lifted up by the wind and partially carried away, with some roof debris falling below.
5. Heavier roofs, especially precast concrete planks, may lift up and move slightly and then fall, but not always returning to their original support location. If the support has collapsed, the heavy roof may fall into the area below.
6. Long-span rooms almost always have high ceilings. The exterior walls are usually higher than the typical one-story wall. Often these walls, especially those with southern or western exposures, will collapse into the long span. If they are load-bearing walls, the roof will cave in on the area also. Avoid rooms such as gyms, auditoriums and cafeterias.
7. Load-bearing walls are the sole support for floors or roofs above. If winds cause the supporting walls to fail, part or all of the roof or floors above will collapse. The most dangerous locations in a building are usually along the south and west sides, and at all corners.
8. Masonry construction is not immune to wall collapse. Most masonry walls are not vertically reinforced, and can fail when high horizontal forces occur, such as those caused by winds.”