

HB 66

Fire Drills, Timing, and Frequency



Bill Patron: Delegate Ellen Campbell

■ WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Requires all public schools to hold fire drills during the school session in accordance with the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The Fire Prevention Code currently requires one fire drill within the first ten days of school and at least one fire drill per month for the remainder of the school year.

■ HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

School divisions must comply with the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. As noted, each school must hold at least one fire drill within the first ten days of school and at least one fire drill per month for the remainder of the school year. A school conducting a fire drill in the first ten school days, a second fire drill anytime within the first 20 school days, and one fire drill every month thereafter will meet all requirements.

■ WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code](#) (SFPC) Sections 403.5.1, 404.2.1, 404.2.2, 405.1, and 505.2).
- [Sample School Exit Drill Form](#)

■ WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- No additional items are currently slated for release.

■ SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. Superintendents and operations managers should review existing fire drill policies and determine updates needed. This team should create next steps for school leaders as needed.
2. Superintendents should communicate updates to principals and assistant principals through a staff meeting or other in person communication channels to ensure clear next steps are shared.
3. School division and building level administrative staff should review current fire drill and crisis plans to determine necessary updates to existing fire drill calendars.
4. Modify school level and school division fire drill and crisis plans as needed to align with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code.
5. Update internal school division and school level documents, including any school exit drill forms to align with Code.
6. Communicate the drill frequency to faculties at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.
7. Hold one fire drill within the first ten days of school.
8. Hold one fire drill within the first 20 days of school.
9. Hold one fire drill each month after the first 20 days of school.
10. Monitor the Statewide Fire Prevention Code for amendments to current requirements.



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