

How I can stay safer at school!

A story for preparing children in schools for
emergencies and drills grades 4-5

Written by: Peter Dolan

(Adapted by the Wilmington Public Schools and Waltham Public Schools)



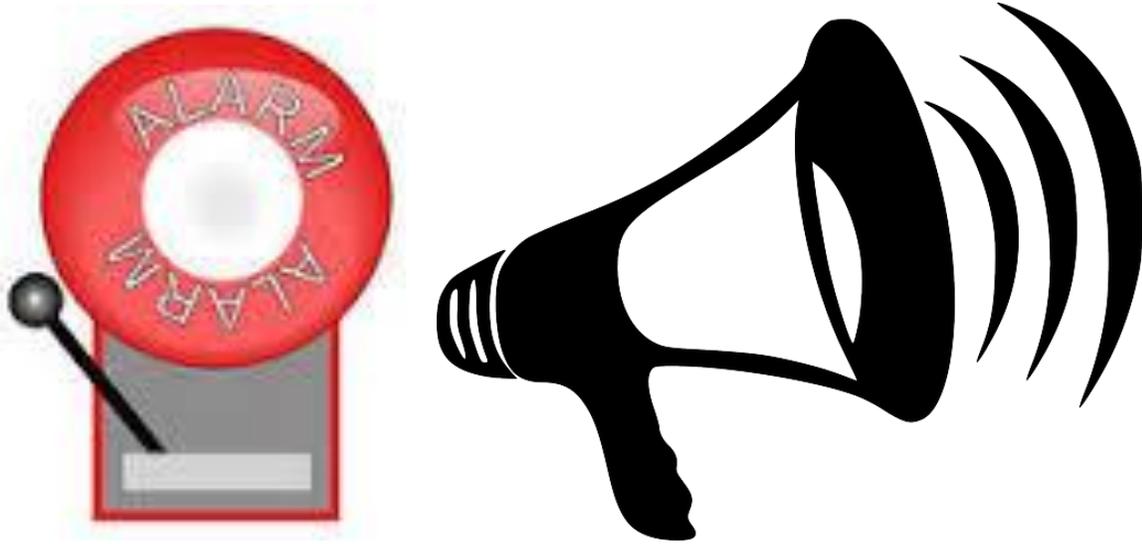


Your principal and teachers want children to be safe and happy at school. Teachers tell us what to do when we are in our classroom, in the cafeteria, in the hallways, and playing outside. Teachers also help us practice what to do if there is an **emergency** at school by conducting different types of drills.

During these practice drills it is important to listen to your teacher at all times.



We practice several types of emergency drills, including fire drills, bus evacuation drills, and different lockdown drills. We will soon begin to practice a new drill called ALICE. As with our other drills, we practice them to stay safe. By practicing, if a real emergency ever occurs, everyone will know exactly what to do and we can stay safe.



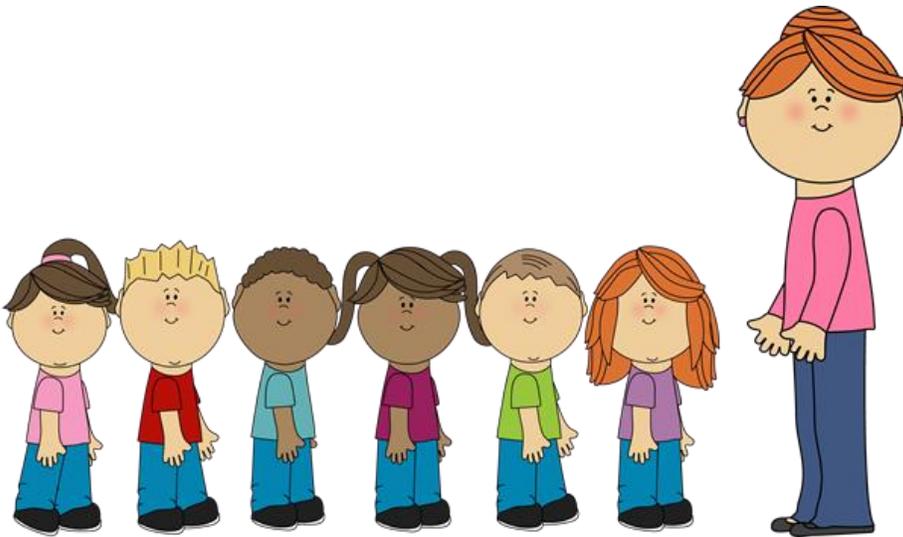
The biggest difference in an *ALICE* drill is there will be an announcement on the loudspeaker that describes an event that is happening in the school. For example, you may hear "An **intruder** has entered the school. He is in the main lobby." You should **STOP** and **LISTEN**. It is very important from that point on to listen to your teacher and to do what the teacher asks you to do.

(Intruder - a person who does not belong in our school; and who wants to do bad things in our school)

The teacher may tell you to spread out at different spots in the room and sit very quietly, stay away from the door, and turn off all the lights and block the door with desks and chairs. This may seem frightening to you, but it is a way of staying safe. The teacher may ask you to grab something to throw like a book, a water bottle, or a back pack.



It is important to remain as quiet as possible in this situation. If the intruder somehow is able to enter your room, then it is okay to scream and throw the books, water bottles, or backpacks at the intruder and then run out the classroom door if possible.



It is also possible that your teacher may instruct you to run to a different part of the school, or tell you to climb out a window. You may even be told to

run outside and go to our pre-determined meeting place away from the school and wait there.



During the emergency, police officers and other public safety personnel may come into the school. Their job will be to stop the intruder, so it again is extremely important that you only do what you are instructed to do, so the safety officers can complete their job.





All schools practice emergency drills. We practice emergency drills so that we stay safe every day at school. We will continue to practice fire drills and bus evacuation. We will also practice ALICE drills where we may be asked to do different things in different situations, like pushing desks in front of our door, or grabbing something to throw. We will also practice escaping from our room and running outside to a safer place.

It is very important for you to know what to do when there is an emergency at school, so that if a real emergency ever occurs, we all will have the best chances of staying safe.

