

LEGAL REFERENCES REGARDING SCHOOL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Katz Bill, California Assembly No. 2876, 1984

- Mandates a school plan for earthquakes, drills, hazard mitigation and training.

Petris Bill, California Senate Bill No. 1841, 1993

- Requires school districts to be prepared to respond to emergencies using the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). It necessitates that all school personnel be trained in how the system works and requires schools to use this system during drills and exercises.

Disaster Service Workers, Section 3100 of the California Government Code

- Declares that public employees are Disaster Service Workers, subject to such disaster service activities assigned to them by their superiors or by law. Public employees include all persons employed by the state or any county, city, city and county, state agency or public district, excluding aliens legally employed. This law applies to public school employees in the following cases: 1) when a local emergency has been proclaimed, 2) when a state emergency has been proclaimed, or 3) when a federal disaster declaration has been made.

Post-Disaster Shelters, Federal, State, City, County school district agreements

- Designates the American Red Cross as the lead agency in providing mass care shelters for the public. Schools are often used for this purpose but school activities prevail for school usage. Schools will have to provide their own resources for the sheltering of students during an emergency.

The Field Act, California State Law, 1933

- Requires all school buildings be built using more stringent standards than those required for other building construction. Compliance is enforced and regulated by the Division of the State Architect (DSA).

Management Advisories, California State Department of Education

- The California State Department of Education makes and clarifies policies related to disasters and emergency preparedness. Education code interpretations, as they apply to emergency situations, are addressed through the use of these advisories.

Senate Bill 187, Hughes, 1-1-98

- Requires that schools develop comprehensive school safety plans. Mandates involvement of school site councils and school safety committees to develop and update the plans once per year. It also spells out what components must be included in the plan.

