

# ***Legal Requirements for Crisis Response***

## **16 V.S.A. CHAPTER 33. FIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS AND SAFETY PATROLS**

Sec. 1481: Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills

Sec. 1482: Safety Patrols

Sec. 1483: Chapter Printed in Manuals or Handbooks

§ 1481 Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills

Statute Text

The principal or person in charge of a public or independent school or educational institution, other than a university or college, shall drill the pupils so that they may be able to leave the school building or perform other procedures described in the school's emergency preparedness plan, or both in the shortest possible time and without panic or confusion.

A drill shall be held at least once in each month during the school year and a record of the date and time of such drill together with the time consumed in completing the procedure, shall be kept in the official school register, and such register shall be open at all times for inspection by representatives from the department of labor and industry or the department of education.

A school district, independent school, or educational institution whose administrative personnel neglect to comply with the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than \$500.00.

§ 1482: Safety Patrols

Statute Text

a) In the exercise of authorized control and supervision over pupils attending schools and other educational institutions in this state, both public and independent, the board of school directors or other directing authority of any such school or institution may organize and supervise school safety patrols and the appointment, with the permission of parents, of pupils as members thereof, for the purpose of influencing and encouraging other pupils to refrain from crossing public highways at points other than at regular crossings, and for the purpose of directing pupils not to cross highways at times when the presence of traffic would render such crossing unsafe.

Such board of school directors or other directing authority shall obtain and keep in force adequate accident insurance to protect pupils acting as safety patrols during the performance of their services.

The commissioner of public safety shall, upon the request of a board of school directors or other directing authority of any public or independent educational institution, assign an officer or officers of the state police to assist such school authorities in the organization and supervision of school safety patrols, advise and make recommendations concerning the elimination of traffic hazards endangering the safety of school children, and otherwise assist in promoting safety education in the schools of the state. Within the appropriation of his department, the commissioner of public safety shall furnish such equipment,

material, and supplies as he may deem necessary for the proper functioning of the school safety patrols. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or permit the use of any safety patrol member for the purpose of directing vehicular traffic.

Liability shall not attach either to the school, educational institution, governing board or any individual director, trustee, superintendent, teacher, or other school authority, parent or any sponsor, sponsoring organization or representative thereof, or to the department of public safety or to any individual member thereof, by virtue of the organization, maintenance or operation of such a school safety patrol and school safety patrol field day activity organized, maintained and operated under the authority of this section because of injuries sustained by any pupil or person, whether a member of the patrol or otherwise, by reason of the operation and maintenance thereof.

#### Insurance

Adequate insurance coverage means coverage for medical, surgical and hospitalization expenses and should not be less than \$5,000 per pupil for such expenses, but if local board chose to carry less, department of education should not substitute its judgment for that of local board. Protection of policy must extend to child apart from board's liability, and company must agree in writing to pay all expenses, up to policy limit, although in fact school district is not liable for injury sustained. 1956-58 Op. Atty. Gen. 72.

#### § 1483 Chapter Printed in Manuals or Handbooks

##### Statute Text

- a) This chapter shall be printed in such manuals or handbooks as may be prepared for the guidance of teachers in a school or institution subject to the provisions thereof.