



FIDALGO
NATURE • SCHOOL

Outdoor Preschool Emergency Preparedness Plan

2022-2023

www.fidalgonatureschool.com

Updated July 2022

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Services	911, radio contact with park
Deception Pass Admin Office	360-675-3767
Anacortes Island Hospital	360-299-1300
Poison Control Center	800-222-2122
CPS/DSHS	1-800-END-HARM (363-4276)

Emergency Communication Plan

Bowman Bay has notable challenges with cell service and connectivity. As a mitigation, our teachers carry a radio to ensure direct communication with park staff and law enforcement. Our teachers also carry a cell phone with a Google Fi plan, which has good service at the site. During an emergency:

1. Teachers will use park radio to stay in contact with park staff and request assistance with communicating with students' emergency contacts if necessary. Park staff maintain a current roster of students and family emergency contacts.
2. If able, teachers will call students' emergency contacts on the classroom phone.

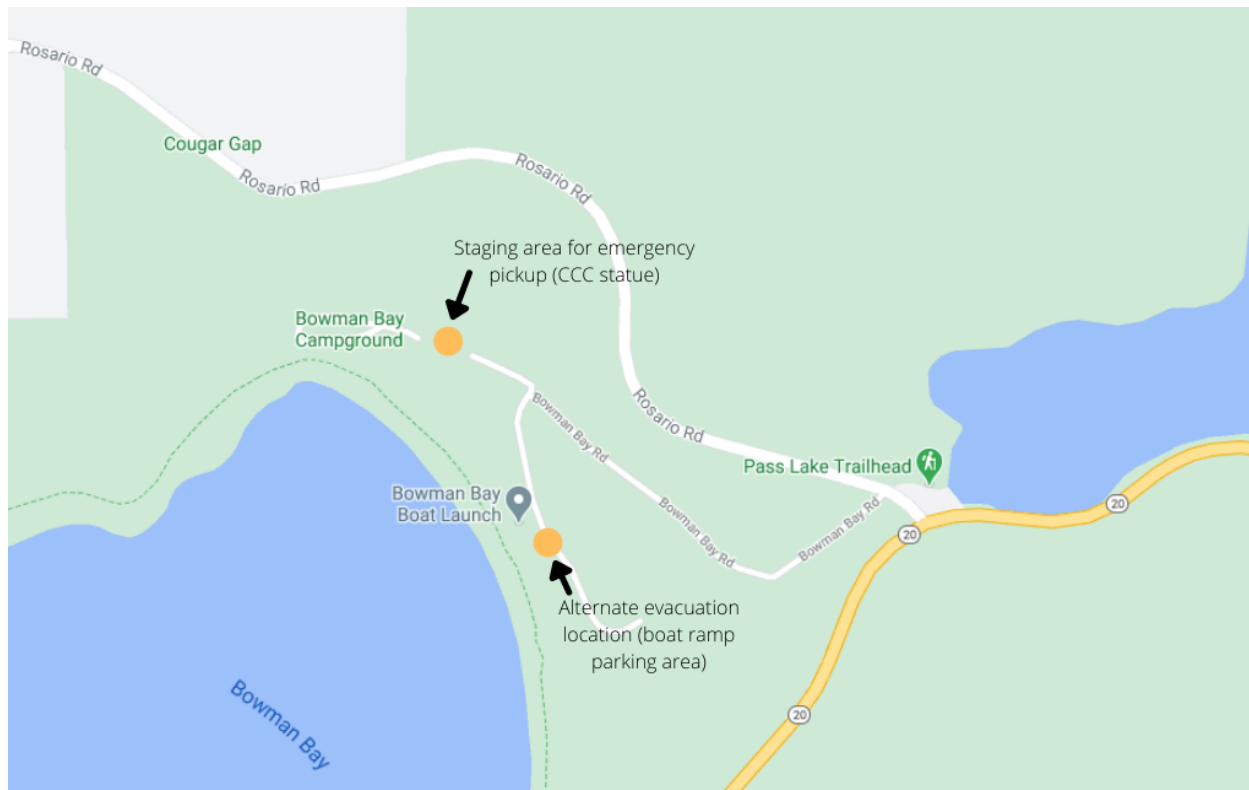
For emergencies, parents/guardians are instructed to:

1. Call the classroom phone.
2. If no response, call Area Manager/Ranger Jason Armstrong's cell phone.
3. If no response, text Jason Armstrong's cell phone (texts come through better than calls sometimes).
4. If there is no response, call the park Admin Office.
5. When the park rangers receive a call, they will radio the teachers or drive down to Bowman Bay to communicate the message.

Parents are instructed to send a text to the classroom phone for day-to-day communication like letting the teachers know their child will be absent or late, they need to pick up their child early, or they forgot something their child will need. Teachers will respond to texts when/if they are able.

Disaster Plans

Evacuation Sites



In case of emergency, and depending on the nature of emergency, teachers will evacuate students to a safe site. In the case of any park emergency, or immediate need for parents to pick up children in the park, the staging area will be the large grass field located in the center of the parking lot identified by a Civilian Conservation Corps statue. This is a flat level area with limited exposure and readily identifiable. The alternate location is the south Bowman Bay parking lot.

Sounding the Alarm

The lead and assistant teacher will both carry a whistle in teacher backpacks that will only be used in emergency situations. Children will be instructed in advance that the whistle will only be used in emergencies or in practice drills, and that when they hear it they must immediately gather in front of the teacher and await further instruction.

Fire Emergency

Staff members on-site will enact the following fire emergency plan at the first sign of fire danger (smoke or flames outside of designated fire pits), or after receiving notice from park staff of fire danger in the area.

1. One staff member will use the emergency whistle to calmly gather and count the children at a safe distance while the other teacher addresses the emergency. Make sure the number and identities of students match those signed in.
2. Assess the nature, size and potential of the fire. If fire can be safely extinguished by the teacher with an extinguisher and/or water, they can handle the emergency and contact the park to report. If not, move on to step 3.
3. Alert the Park Ranger by radio or telephone. The Ranger will notify the fire department, board members, and families of the nature of the emergency and planned meeting place.
4. Determine the need for evacuation of the campground and evacuate students if necessary. A teacher will assist any children who cannot walk independently.
5. The following supplies should be in the teacher's backpack in case of emergency evacuation:
 - First-aid kit
 - Copies of emergency contact information
 - Child medication records
 - Individual children's medicine, if applicable
6. In case of a structure fire, evacuate the building. Encourage students to walk calmly but quickly to the nearest exit.
7. Gather at the CCC statue staging area, if safe to do so. If that is impossible, gather at the alternate evacuation location - the lower Bowman Bay Parking lot.
8. Parents and guardians can contact the program by calling the classroom phone or by contacting Jason Armstrong or Deception Pass State Park Admin Office. If the program is not reachable by telephone, rangers can communicate with us via radio.
9. Children will remain in the staging area or alternate evacuation site until reunited with parents or guardians. Only guardians authorized by spoken or written permission of parents will be allowed to pick up children.

Encountering Dangerous Wildlife

1. One staff member recognising a dangerous wildlife encounter will immediately alert all other staff.
2. A staff member positioned at the greatest distance from the dangerous wildlife will blow their emergency whistle to calmly gather the children and perform a head count.
3. When all children are accounted for, a staff member will instruct them to move calmly and quietly away from the wildlife, towards the emergency staging area by CCC statue if possible.

4. Other available staff members will assess the threat and respond accordingly. Staff will not approach dangerous wildlife, but may need to shout, make loud noises, or use tarps/backpacks to appear larger. If volunteers from another organization or park staff are present, teaching staff should follow their instructions for dealing with dangerous wildlife.
5. Alert the park ranger by radio or telephone immediately if assistance is needed. If help is not required, report the incident to park staff after class.
6. Children will remain at emergency staging location until it is safe to return to class or until reunited with parents or guardians, if the threat from dangerous wildlife continues.

Lockdown and Shelter-in-Place

Staff members will enact the lockdown and shelter-in-place plan for an emergency that makes evacuation dangerous, such as an airborne hazard or dangerous human activity in the park. Staff members may determine for themselves that a lockdown is necessary, or receive notice from park staff.

1. A staff member recognizing an emergency situation requiring us to lock down or shelter in place will immediately alert all other staff and gather children.
2. Children will be brought to the bathroom for lockdown. Gather the group and perform head counts before, during, and after evacuation. Make sure the number and identities of students match those signed in.
3. A staff member will turn off bathroom lights and secure the door from the inside using a door jammer.
4. Teachers will communicate with the park service via emergency radio for information about when it is safe to emerge from lockdown or relocate.
5. Children will remain in the lockdown area until reunited with parents or guardians. Only guardians authorized by spoken or written permission of parents will be allowed to pick up children.

Earthquake

The north side of Bowman Bay is not an at-risk area for [tsunami hazards](#), so our evacuation will prioritize avoiding tall trees that may fall. If possible, we will move our group towards the open field below the campground parking lot in case of aftershocks.

1. Protect yourself and students—drop, cover, hold until the earthquake is over. Stay clear of falling objects. Direct students to drop and cover until shaking stops.
2. Do not pack or delay. Keep the class together. Perform head counts before, during, and after movement, and make sure the count corresponds to the number of students present.
3. Avoid downed trees and powerlines, weakened or damaged structures, landslides, or other

dangers.

4. Retreat to the open area and contact the Park Ranger.
5. Assess and treat any injuries.
6. Remain in communication with the state park to stay updated on emergency information and reuniting children with their families.
7. Be alert for aftershocks.
8. Coordinate with Park officials to determine if structures are safe for use after the earthquake.

Extreme Weather

Extreme weather events can make outdoor programming hazardous. In case of dangerous weather, outdoor activities will be canceled to ensure the safety of staff and children. It is the responsibility of the education director to monitor weather conditions the day before and morning of every school day. We will use weather warnings and forecasts from the National Weather Service to determine when to cancel or alter programming.

Weather conditions that will prompt the school to close include:

- National Weather Service high wind warning, sustained high winds over 25 mph, or wind gusts over 35 mph;
- Cold temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit;
- Heat above 90 degrees Fahrenheit;
- Air quality index of 100 or higher;
- A 50% chance or greater of lightning storms during school hours;
- Tornado watch or warning;
- Hurricane watch or warning;
- Flood watch or warning
- Tsunami/seiche advisory or warning

Parents will be informed by email and text message by 7:30 am the morning of class if programs will be canceled.

If any of these weather conditions occur during class, the group will seek emergency shelter in the bathroom area or another shelter relevant to the weather emergency and contact families by phone if extreme weather requires a cancellation after the day has begun. Staff will contact parents directly and reach out to the state park via radio to communicate with families if needed as well. If parents cannot be reached, staff will continue to care for children in the emergency shelter. If parents are not available to pick up by the end of the regularly scheduled school day, or when the safety of students or staff is compromised, school staff may contact park staff to provide emergency transportation to a safer location such as the park office.

If necessary, staff will walk with students to the alternate evacuation area at the Pass Lake parking lot in

case of tsunami or flood warning. Staff will verify the number and identities of children before, during, and after movement. Children will be released to parents or guardians authorized by spoken or written permission of parents.

Staff Member Emergency

If a staff member experiences an emergency situation that prevents them from supervising program participants, they, or another staff member, will contact the park service via radio to ask for assistance. Park staff may assist with supervision until children can be picked up by parents or guardians, or until an alternative staff member or qualified volunteer is available to join the group.

Immediate Emergency Supplies

Immediate emergency supplies are supplies we may need in the first hours after an emergency, and is only a small portion of total emergency supplies. These items will be stored in the teacher backpacks. The backpacks will include:

- First Aid Kit
- Copy of emergency plan
- Contact and medication records for all children
- Flashlight and batteries
- Water bottle
- Diapers and wipes
- Plastic bags
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Radio and batteries
- Back-up phone charger

Disaster Supplies

Fidalgo Nature School must keep on the premises a three day supply of food, water, and life-sustaining medication for the licensed capacity of children and current staff for use in case of an emergency. These supplies will be stored in the CCC storage room at Bowman Bay. These resources must be available at the alternate evacuation location.

Disaster supplies must include:

- ½ gallon of water per person per day, a 3-day supply
- Age appropriate non-perishable food, a 3-day supply
- Emergency medication (replace when expired)
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Diapers and wipes
- Plastic bags
- Cups for food and water
- Copy of emergency plan

Practice Drills

Emergency drills will be practiced on a monthly or bi-monthly basis as required. All emergency drills will be recorded on the emergency drill form and include:

- The date and time of drill
- Number of children and staff who participated
- Length of the drill
- Notes about how the drill went and how to improve

Fire and evacuation drills will be practiced once each calendar month. Earthquake, lockdown, and shelter-in-place drills will take place once every two calendar months. Emergency drills must be conducted with a variety of staff and at different times of the day.