

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DELTA

What if you just found out about an emergency or disaster that is affecting your child's school...?



Your first response might be to phone the school or, if you couldn't reach anyone at the school, just get into your car and go... BUT, is that the right thing to do?



**Please read this bulletin and talk to your children to ensure both you and they respond appropriately and effectively to an emergency or disaster situation at the school.**

Your informed and measured response will help the school manage the emergency effectively and will assist the student release procedures that your school has put in place.

**DeltaPrepared**

# DO'S AND DON'TS

## Please...

- **DO NOT** phone the school following an emergency or disaster event. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communications. **DO** listen to the radio and check the Delta School District website [www.deltasd.bc.ca](http://www.deltasd.bc.ca) for information and updates.
- If you are at home, **DO** ensure your home is safe to return to with your son or daughter.
- **DO** walk to the school if possible - **DON'T** drive! Streets may be littered with debris. School access routes and street entrances must remain clear for emergency vehicles.



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# TALK TO YOUR KIDS

## About...

- The fact that their school has emergency plans in place to ensure student safety immediately following an emergency or disaster.
  - The potential risk of gas leaks, downed “live” power lines, debris, etc. which may make streets and roads impassable and therefore not safe for your son or daughter to attempt to walk home, regardless of their age.
  - The importance of remaining at the school until given instructions by authorized school staff and/or First Responders.
  - The importance of the student release procedures at the school and that you and your son or daughter need to follow the school student release procedures.
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# EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Parents are key partners in their children's learning and are often very involved in school activities. Parents play an important part in the support of the school's emergency plan by:

- participating in the development of the school's emergency management plan;
- ensuring that they are aware of how such emergency plans will unfold;
- cooperating with school administration, school district administration and emergency responders during an emergency (including lockdowns) or disaster;
- providing vital and up-to-date information regarding contact, medical and student release information through Parent Connect;
- participating in drills or exercises related to emergency preparedness, including student release drills, when invited to do so by the Principal;
- encouraging their children to take drills seriously; and
- helping to acquire, organize, inventory, and update emergency supplies on an ongoing basis.



# WHAT IS STUDENT RELEASE?

**Student Release** is the process a school follows to dismiss students in an emergency or disaster situation. There are three types of student release:



- **“Regular Release”** is the regular day-to-day release process that would be used in the event of a minor incident such as a power failure.
- **“Controlled Release”** Is used when there is a moderate level of risk, such as an impending severe storm. Because students may be emotionally traumatized, they will be individually signed out before being released.
- **“Full Scale Emergency Release”** is used in extreme emergencies where there is an enhanced state of risk such as after an earthquake. This procedure initially involves teachers releasing students out to parents and a central release station signing students out to designated temporary guardians, all in a safe, controlled and managed manner. Eventually, as student numbers drop, all students will be signed out through the central release station. You will be asked to bring identification and wait in line. Your patience will be greatly appreciated.

In the event of a **Controlled or Full Scale Emergency Release** which poses the highest levels of risk to students, the school will respond as follows:

- Students will only be permitted to leave the school grounds with an authorized person as listed in the student release file, and only if it is deemed safe to do so by the school in consultation with the District Emergency Operations Centre and Municipal Emergency Responders.
  - School personnel will ensure that the student’s name, grade, destination address, time, name and signature of the person accompanying the student matches what is in the student release file and is recorded on the student release log, which will be kept on file.
  - Updated student release data will be obtained each September from parents/guardians either by hard copy form or electronically through Parent Connect.
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# **FAMILY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**



You need to be ready to care for your family and respond effectively after an emergency or disaster, whether at home, school or work. Preparing ahead can reduce the fear, anxiety and loss that can accompany an emergency event.

Check out our Resources Page on the DeltaPrepared website <http://facilities.deltasd.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness-resources> for helpful guides and links to various agencies to assist in your family's emergency planning.

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**The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance in the Delta School District.**

**For more information on our DeltaPrepared Program, please visit our website**

**<http://facilities.deltasd.bc.ca/deltaprepared>**

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