

Safety Corner

Woodland Public Schools

March 2023

Safety Is Not an Accident

Having Emergency Procedures and Running Drills helps us to be more prepared. Training and drill exercises offer the opportunity for students and staff to learn their roles and responsibilities before, during and after any type of emergency. Safety drills are key to increasing employees' and students' knowledge of how to respond to an emergency or violence. They help prepare individuals to respond quickly, calmly, confidently, and safely should an actual critical incident take place. Wearing your badge is also an important part of being prepared. If there is an emergency where police are involved badges help identify which people are staff and save precious time.

Safety Talks

[Safety Talks](#) are brief reminders that encourage and teach school district staff to work safely and are a great way to heighten employee awareness of workplace hazards.

Recent Safety Talks:

- January, 2023 [Safety Talk: Is Your District Safety Committee Effective?](#)
- December, 2022 [Safety Talks: Parking Lot Safety Tips](#)
- November, 2022 [Safety Talk: Preventing Slips and Falls When Walking or Working on Snow or Ice](#)
- October, 2022 [Safety Talks: Using Stairs Safely](#)
- September, 2022 [Safety Talk - Lifting Safely](#)

Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids. Our buildings have naloxone on hand in case of an overdose. Use caution if you see unidentified powder or pills. Don't touch it; immediately notify your administrator.

Helpful Resources:

- [Fentanyl Facts](#) - CDC
- [Naloxone Drug Facts | National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) - (NIDA) (nih.gov)
- [Protect Yourself from the Dangers of Fentanyl](#) - CDC
- [Protect Friends and Family with Lifesaving Naloxone](#) - CDC
- [Stop Overdose Website | Español \(Spanish\)](#) - CDC
- [Drug-Free Communities \(DFC\)](#) - CDC

Have an accident? A near miss?
Click here to report it using the
[Employee Incident Report](#)

School Security and Safety

Over the course of the last several school years, Woodland Schools have implemented significant improvements to make schools safer for students and staff. In an effort to refine our implementation of industry-leading safety standards, we have been working with Compass Consulting Group. Over the last four months, they have studied each of our facilities, reviewed safety procedures, and met, at length, with school and district staff and administrators. At the February 9th Board Meeting Workshop, Compass gave the board an overview of their recommendations.

The primary framework for the Compass Review is "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED) CDC developed the [CPTED School Assessment](#). This tool assesses the use of CPTED principles in three areas of schools: grounds, buildings, and interiors.

CPTED principles that schools can consider include:

1. *Natural surveillance*
This refers to the placement of physical features that improve visibility. Example: The strategic use of windows that look out on the school entrance so students can see into the school and know that others can see them.
2. *Access management*
This includes using signs, well-marked entrances and exits, and landscaping to improve or limit access to certain areas. Example: Landscaping that reduces access to unsupervised locations on the school grounds.
3. *Territoriality*
This involves creating a welcoming environment. Example: Motivational signs, displays of student art, and the use of school colors to create warmth and express pride.
4. *Physical maintenance*
This includes repair and general upkeep of space. Example: Removing graffiti and making repairs to restrooms, light fixtures, and stairways to maintain safety and comfort.
5. *Order maintenance*
This includes addressing and reducing negative behavior. Example: Having an adult present at all times while students move from one location to another.

The principles of CPTED may benefit schools by:

- Creating a warm and welcoming environment
- Fostering a sense of physical and social order
- Creating a sense of ownership by students
- Sending positive messages to students
- Maximizing the presence of authority figures
- Minimizing opportunities for out-of-sight activities
- Managing access to all school areas

Environmental design alone will not prevent all school violence. However, CPTED is a promising prevention strategy that may lead to safer schools. As we implement recommendations you will see changes in our buildings. Remember, the number one thing you can do as a staff member is get in the mindset of consciously observing your surroundings and if you see something that doesn't look right, tell someone. Together, we will continue on our journey to make Woodland School District safer for students and staff.