

Safety Drills

The safety of children and school staff is very important to us. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children to study and learn, it is necessary that we practice our emergency response plans by having drills designed to exercise our procedures.

To prepare children for a potential emergency at school or home, teach them to remain calm and follow the instructions of the adult in charge. For more information on how parents can prepare their children and themselves for emergencies, go to the following link on the Durham Public Schools webpage:

[How Parents Can Help in Case of Emergency](#)

Below you will find information on the safety drills we practice during the year at Southwest: Fire Drills, Tornado Drills, Lockdown Drills, and Earthquake Drills.

Fire Drills

Southwest will conduct a fire drill each month that school is in session. We want each student to understand and be aware of the importance of this drill and not be afraid when the fire alarm sounds. By practicing, they will know what to do and how to do it in the event of a fire.



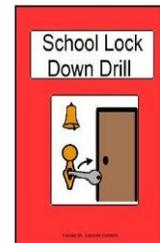
Tornado Drills

Southwest conducts one tornado drill each year. Typically, this happens in March as part of "NC Severe Weather Preparedness Week." This drill teaches students how to designated safe areas within the building and how to utilize the "duck and cover" position. No one can enter the school during a Tornado Warning because the office staff will be in their designated safe areas. We strongly encourage you to talk to your students about what to do both at school and at home in the event of a tornado.



Lockdown Drills

The school will conduct two lockdown drills throughout each school year. If an emergency situation is occurring in or near Southwest, the school may be placed under "lockdown." A lockdown drill will secure the school building and safely shelter all students, staff and visitors inside the building. During a lockdown drill, all of the perimeter doors to the school building will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. Students practice staying quiet and unseen within classrooms and restrooms (if they are not in their classroom). To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the drill is completed.



NEW Earthquake Drill

Southwest will be holding an earthquake drill on October 16th at 10:16 a.m. The goal of the drill is to improve our ability to protect students, save lives, and reduce injuries. During the earthquake drill, students will "drop, cover, and hold on" which experts agree is the best action in the event of an earthquake. Prior to the drill, please discuss your family's home preparedness plan with your student(s).

