



Environmental Disaster Policy

Policy Statement

Tiggers' priority is the children in our care and their health and safety. In the event of a Natural/Environmental Disaster, the Staff will evaluate the nature of the disaster and contact the appropriate agency for advice on how to proceed. Please see separate Health and Safety Policy for details on the day to day processes for ensuring the children's safety.

Procedures

In the event of a natural disaster that required the evacuation of the Parish Rooms, the Staff will, in the first instance, follow the fire procedures as written in the policy and as practiced during their twice a term fire drills. See also Emergency Evacuation Policy.

If evacuation was not possible or safe, the children would be kept inside the building and away from hazardous objects (i.e. windows that could break or objects that could fall and cause harm). Parents would be notified by telephone as soon as possible. The Co-Chairs and Supervisor would assess the situation, consult with the appropriate authorities and decide if the setting needed to close. Likely scenarios for closure from environmental disasters are listed below. See also Emergency Closure Policy.

Water Contamination

Should the water at the Setting become contaminated and a health risk to the Staff and Children, then all parents will be informed by telephone and email and asked to collect their child as soon as possible. The Setting will remain closed until the water has been confirmed as safe to use again by the appropriate water supplier.

Air Pollution (excluding a gas leak and current acceptable levels of air quality)

Tiggers is aware that the air around is not pure and that there are pollutants in the atmosphere at all times. However, pollution can also be the consequence of a natural disaster, e.g. hurricanes, petrochemical spills, oil or gas drilling. If a disaster occurred that affected the air quality, the children would be kept inside the building during the session and if necessary parents would be informed of the situation and given the option of collecting their child. The committee would carefully consider the incident and whether the setting should remain open based on advice from the emergency services.

Landslides and Earthquakes

In the event of a landslide or earthquake the children would be kept inside the building during the session but kept away from potential hazards where possible i.e. protected from falling objects and kept away from windows. Parents would be advised by telephone of the situation and if deemed necessary asked to collect their children when it was safe to do so. With both scenarios, the safety of all those at Tiggers would be the primary consideration before any action was taken. However, dependant of the severity of the incident, the setting may be able to remain open – this decision would be made by the Co-Chairs and Supervisor based on guidance from the authorities and/or appropriate agencies.

Tornadoes, Hurricanes and Severe Weather

Tiggers recognizes that extreme weather conditions are becoming more frequent e.g. heavy snow, flooding, tornadoes and hurricanes. The pre-school is informed of and follows the Met Office Cold



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Weather Alert System and updates from the Department of Education and West Sussex County Council websites.

Tornadoes and hurricanes can be predicted in advance but it is impossible to predict the damage they might cause. Every effort will be made to ensure that the pre-school and those in it are secure should they occur. The weather can change very quickly and Tiggers will follow advice from emergency services if necessary.

For details on Fees charged for closures beyond our control please refer to our Terms & Conditions.