

**SCHOOL EMERGENCY DRILLS AMENDMENTS**

2020 SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Carol Spackman Moss**

Senate Sponsor: Kathleen Riebe

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes changes to the State Fire Code related to emergency evacuation drill requirements for certain educational facilities during the 2020-2021 school year.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires Group E occupancies to provide monthly age-appropriate fire evacuation instruction in lieu of emergency evacuation drills for a portion of the 2020-2021 school year and a monthly emergency evacuation drill for the remainder of the school year; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**15A-5-202.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 103 and 441

---

---

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **15A-5-202.5** is amended to read:

**15A-5-202.5. Amendments and additions to Chapters 3 and 4 of IFC.**

(1) For IFC, Chapter 3, General Requirements:

30 (a) IFC, Chapter 3, Section 304.1.2, Vegetation, is amended as follows: Delete line six  
31 and replace it with: " Utah Administrative Code, R652-122-1300, Minimum Standards for  
32 County Wildland Fire Ordinance".

33 (b) IFC, Chapter 3, Section 310.8, Hazardous environmental conditions, is deleted and  
34 rewritten as follows: "1. When the fire code official determines that existing or historical  
35 hazardous environmental conditions necessitate controlled use of any ignition source, including  
36 fireworks, lighters, matches, sky lanterns, and smoking materials, any of the following may  
37 occur:

38 1.1. If the existing or historical hazardous environmental conditions exist in a  
39 municipality, the legislative body of the municipality may prohibit the ignition or use of an  
40 ignition source in:

41 1.1.1. mountainous, brush-covered, forest-covered, or dry grass-covered areas;

42 1.1.2. within 200 feet of waterways, trails, canyons, washes, ravines, or similar areas;

43 1.1.3. the wildland urban interface area, which means the line, area, or zone where  
44 structures or other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or land  
45 being used for an agricultural purpose; or

46 1.1.4. a limited area outside the hazardous areas described in this paragraph 1.1 to  
47 facilitate a readily identifiable closed area, in accordance with paragraph 2.

48 1.2. If the existing or historical hazardous environmental conditions exist in an  
49 unincorporated area, the state forester may prohibit the ignition or use of an ignition source in  
50 all or part of the areas described in paragraph 1.1 that are within the unincorporated area, after  
51 consulting with the county fire code official who has jurisdiction over that area.

52 1.3. If the existing or historical hazardous environmental conditions exist in a metro  
53 township created under Title 10, Chapter 2a, Part 4, Incorporation of Metro Townships and  
54 Unincorporated Islands in a County of the First Class on and after May 12, 2015, the metro  
55 township legislative body may prohibit the ignition or use of an ignition source in all or part of  
56 the areas described in paragraph 1.1 that are within the township.

57 2. If a municipal legislative body, the state forester, or a metro township legislative

58 body closes an area to the discharge of fireworks under paragraph 1, the legislative body or  
59 state forester shall:

60 2.1. designate the closed area along readily identifiable features like major roadways,  
61 waterways, or geographic features;

62 2.2. ensure that the boundary of the designated closed area is as close as is practical to  
63 the defined hazardous area, provided that the closed area may include areas outside of the  
64 hazardous area to facilitate a readily identifiable line; and

65 2.3. identify the closed area through a written description or map that is readily  
66 available to the public.

67 3. A municipal legislative body, the state forester, or a metro township legislative body  
68 may close a defined area to the discharge of fireworks due to a historical hazardous  
69 environmental condition under paragraph 1 if the legislative body or state forester:

70 3.1. makes a finding that the historical hazardous environmental condition has existed  
71 in the defined area before July 1 of at least two of the preceding five years;

72 3.2. produces a map indicating the boundaries, in accordance with paragraph 2, of the  
73 defined area described; and

74 3.3. before May 1 of each year the defined area is closed, provides the map described  
75 in paragraph 3.2 to the county in which the defined area is located.

76 4. A municipal legislative body, the state forester, or a metro township legislative body  
77 may not close an area to the discharge of fireworks due to a historical hazardous environmental  
78 condition unless the legislative body or state forester provides a map, in accordance with  
79 paragraph 3."

80 (c) IFC, Chapter 3, Section 311.1.1, Abandoned premises, is amended as follows: On  
81 line 10 delete the words "International Property Maintenance Code and the".

82 (d) IFC, Chapter 3, Section 311.5, Placards, is amended as follows: On line three delete  
83 the word "shall" and replace it with the word "may".

84 (2) IFC, Chapter 4, Emergency Planning and Preparedness:

85 (a) IFC, Chapter 4, Section 403.10.2.1, College and university buildings, is deleted and

86 replaced with the following:

87 "403.10.2.1 College and university buildings and fraternity and sorority houses.

88 (a) College and university buildings, including fraternity and sorority houses, shall  
89 prepare an approved fire safety and evacuation plan, in accordance with Section 404.

90 (b) Group R-2 college and university buildings, including fraternity and sorority  
91 houses, shall comply with Sections 403.10.2.1.1 and 403.10.2.1.2."

92 (b) IFC, Chapter 4, Section 405.2, Table 405.2, is amended to add the following  
93 footnotes:

94 (i) "e. Secondary schools in Group E occupancies shall have an emergency evacuation  
95 drill for fire conducted at least every two months, to a total of four emergency evacuation drills  
96 during the nine-month school year. The first emergency evacuation drill for fire shall be  
97 conducted within 10 school days after the beginning of classes. The third emergency  
98 evacuation drill for fire, weather permitting, shall be conducted 10 school days after the  
99 beginning of the next calendar year. The second and fourth emergency evacuation drills may  
100 be substituted by a security or safety drill to include shelter in place, earthquake drill, or lock  
101 down for violence. If inclement weather causes a secondary school to miss the 10-day deadline  
102 for the third emergency evacuation drill for fire, the secondary school shall perform the third  
103 emergency evacuation drill for fire as soon as practicable after the missed deadline."

104 (ii) "f. In Group E occupancies, excluding secondary schools, if the AHJ approves, the  
105 monthly required emergency evacuation drill can be substituted by a security or safety drill to  
106 include shelter in place, earthquake drill, or lock down for violence. The routine emergency  
107 evacuation drill must be conducted at least every other drill."

108 (iii) "g. A-3 occupancies in academic buildings of institutions of higher learning are  
109 required to have one emergency evacuation drill per year, provided the following conditions are  
110 met:

111 (A) The building has a fire alarm system in accordance with Section 907.2.

112 (B) The rooms classified as assembly shall have fire safety floor plans as required in  
113 Subsection 404.2.2(4) posted.

114 (C) The building is not classified a high-rise building.

115 (D) The building does not contain hazardous materials over the allowable quantities by  
116 code."

117 (iv) "h. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the 2020-2021 school year,  
118 Group E occupancies are not required to conduct an emergency evacuation drill before March  
119 1, 2021. For the period beginning the first day of the 2020-2021 school year and ending  
120 February 28, 2021, each calendar month, Group E occupancies shall provide in-class  
121 instruction to students in an age-appropriate manner that describes the procedures for  
122 emergency evacuation for fire. Group E occupancies shall complete the first monthly  
123 instruction no later than 15 days after the day on which the 2020-2021 school year begins. In  
124 addition to the monthly instruction, Group E occupancies may provide in-class security or  
125 safety drills to include shelter in place, earthquake drill, or lock down for violence."

126 (v) "i. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the period beginning March 1,  
127 2021, and ending the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, in Group E occupancies, if the  
128 AHJ approves, the monthly required emergency evacuation drill can be substituted by a  
129 security or safety drill to include shelter in place, earthquake drill, or lock down for violence.  
130 The routine emergency evacuation drill must be conducted at least every other month."

131 Section 2. **Effective date.**

132 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
133 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah  
134 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,  
135 the date of veto override.