Emergency Preparedness in Licensed Child Care Facilities and K-12 Schools

Prepared for Save the Children
June 2009

By
Sue Buckley
Brown Buckley Tucker
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Background

In 2008, Save the Children commissioned a research study to determine the how well prepared child care facilities and K – 12 schools were to respond to the needs of children in the event of natural disasters and emergencies such as tornados, earthquakes, or industrial accidents, which can strike during school hours. The child care licensing laws and regulations and state laws for all 50 states and the District of Columbia were researched to determine whether they included the following components found to be essential for disaster planning:

For child care centers:

- A written plan for evacuation of the facility and relocation site
- A reunification plan for children, if separated from their parents
- Whether the special needs of children in child care were addressed

For K – 12 Schools:

- There is a written procedure for general disaster planning

In August of 2008, Save the Children disseminated an Issue Brief that reported the results of the research, noting that only four states met all the criteria for child care centers and K – 12 schools.

Save the Children has commissioned a follow-up study to ascertain whether the heightened awareness of the need for disaster preparation resulted in more states making provisions in their laws and regulations mandating an emergency preparedness plans that included the targeted criteria.

Brown Buckley Tucker was hired to update the portion of the research highlighted above.
Methodology

Approach

Brown Buckley Tucker (DDT) and Save the Children representatives agreed upon a comprehensive approach to the data collection process. Two methods of data collection were used to gather and verify the information. First, BBT conducted an online review of the child care licensing, and K-12 school laws and regulations, for the 50 states and the District of Columbia focused on emergency preparedness. Supporting documentation that demonstrated that the state was requiring that the Save the Children emergency preparedness standards were met was gathered, e.g. emergency preparedness templates, application forms, copies of laws and regulations.

As a follow-up to the online research, states were contacted when state laws or regulations related to the identified criteria for all types of licensed child care facilities and/or K-12 schools were not found online or required clarification. Separate calls were made to child care licensing staff and to school personnel identifying the Save the Children project and criteria and seeking verification that the data found online was accurate.

A hard copy of all verifying data will be sent to Save the Children. Comments further clarifying each states’ position are available in Appendix A.

Review of the Laws and Regulations

Child Care Facilities

Brown Buckley Tucker conducted a comprehensive review of the child care licensing regulations for each state. While some states had one set of regulations that were applied to all types of child care facilities, other states employed a unique set of regulations for each type of facility licensed such as Child Care Center and Family Child Care Home. For the purpose of this study, each set of regulations was reviewed to assure that they had the three components of emergency preparedness as defined by Save the Children. For each criterion, all components must have been in place in order for a state to receive a yes.

Specific elements reviewed follow:

Evacuation and Relocation Plan

A law or requirement mandating all licensed childcare facilities to have a multi-hazard written evacuation and relocation plan.

Emergency Preparedness 2009
Special Needs of Children in Child Care
In context of a written emergency evacuation and relocation plan, a law or requirement mandating a written plan for accommodating all children with special needs enrolled in a particular licensed child care facility.

Reunification Minimums
In order to facilitate reunification of children and parents in the event of an emergency, a law or requirement mandating all licensed child care facilities to have a written plan to notify parents of an emergency.

K-12 Schools
Brown Buckley Tucker conducted a comprehensive review of the laws and regulations pertaining to schools in each state and the District of Columbia to determine whether they included a provision for emergency preparedness in schools. Specifically,

K-12 Written Procedure for Disaster Planning
A law or requirement mandating a multi-hazard written disaster plan. In order for a state to receive a ‘Yes’ score, there needed to be clear demonstration that safety plans went beyond that of school violence that is mandated in other legislation to include multi-hazards.
## Findings

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Evacuation/Relocation Plan</th>
<th>Reunification Plan for Children if Separated from Parents</th>
<th>Special Needs of Children in Child Care</th>
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Observations and Commentary

Licensed Child Care Facilities

Updating of Regulations

The issue of emergency preparedness is becoming more in the forefront for child care licensing bureaus as they observe natural disasters from flooding to tornados to hurricanes. Since the 2008 Issue Brief published by Save the Children, five states, Delaware, Alabama, Arkansas, Maryland, and Pennsylvania have rewritten their regulations to include some or all of Save the Children’s disaster preparation regulation recommendations. In addition, 12 states indicated that they are in the process of revising their regulations to become in line with those guidelines within the next 2 years. Six states, AK, IA, IL, MS, RI, and VT have requested that Save the Children provide them with information to provide them with best practice information that can be used when revising regulations and statutes.

Emergency Response Plans

While only 14% of states have regulations mandating the emergency preparedness criteria of evacuation and relocation, reunification, and addressing the special needs of
children in child care identified by Save the Children, Hawaii and VT mandate emergency response plans in their regulations and include planning guides while other states require plans, they do not provide specific guidance as to what is included in those plans. Nine states, IA, IL, NH, MA, ME, MA, RI, SC, and TX, in their regulations recommend emergency response plans and include templates and/or guides to use in preparing such a plan.

The majority of people interviewed indicated that while emergency preparedness documents were not mandated, they strongly urged child care centers to make such plans and to coordinate those plans with local emergency preparedness officials. In addition, they look for the plans during their annual licensing visit. To further demonstrate their commitment to emergency preparedness, at least seven states indicated that they provide disaster preparation training to child care centers.

Training, Technical Assistance and Resource Provision

Forty-one percent (21/51) States and the District of Columbia (AR, CT, FL, GA, ID, KS, ME, MI, NC, ND, NH, MD, MO, NV, OK, OR, SC, TX, VA, WI, WY) offered that they or their partners, such as the Department of Health, Extension Service, etc. offered emergency preparedness training, technical assistance, and/or resources to licensed child care centers to assist them to comprehensive emergency preparedness plans.

Fire Safety and Disaster Preparation

The laws/regulations in thirty-seven state laws include language requiring evacuation plans for each center; however, a number of them are fire specific rather than multi-hazard. When seeking to verify that the evacuation was fire specific, licensing staff equated fire safety with disaster preparation.

Licensed Child Care Facilities versus Family-Home Day Care

States have unique regulations for different types of facilities ranging from one set of regulations for all child care facilities to six unique sets of regulations for each type of child care facility such as child care center to group family-home day care to family-home day care. Twenty-nine percent of the states have regulations that meet the three child care criteria identified by Save the Children in their child care center requirements, but not other types of licensed facilities, such as family-home day care regulations. While a child care center serves more children and has more staff requiring more regulations to address those specific needs, emergency preparedness needs do not change by environment.
Summary

The child care licensing data from the research that was done last year and this year cannot be compared as different criteria were used when gathering data. The data summary for this year follows:

86% (44/51) of States and the District of Columbia do not meet the basic emergency preparedness standards for licensed child care centers and K – 12 schools as identified by Save the Children

The percentage of States and the District of Columbia that by having a law or regulation that meets the criteria identified by Save the Children follow:

- 41% (21/51) require all licensed child care facilities to have a multi-hazard written evacuation and relocation plan
- 29% (15/51) requiring all licensed child care facilities to have a written plan to notify parents of an emergency
- 22 % (11/51) require a written plan for accommodating all children with special needs during an emergency evacuation and relocation
- 29% (15/51) have licensing regulations that mandate more stringent disaster planning and preparation for child care centers than family home child care providers

For K – 12 schools, When comparing the data from this year with the data from 2008, six states (AR, HI, KS, KY, NC, and ND) now have a mandate for a multi-hazard plan, while a multi-hazard plan for Nevada could not be verified as it was last year.

- 71 % (36/51) require K – 12 schools to have a written multi-hazard disaster plan
APPENDIX A

Emergency Preparedness Notes by State

Alabama – Current regulations for Day Care Centers and Family Day Homes, et al indicate that there must be a plan for evacuation with no provision for relocation, reunification, or special needs. However, a new law was recently passed that includes all the provisions so they will get all yese s.

Alaska – Regulations state they must have a disaster preparedness and emergency evacuation plan, but does not specify relocation and reunification. Special needs are noted in the evacuation section. Lewis Watson would like more information on disaster planning from Save 907-269-4600. In addition, he would like to receive a copy of the Save report.

Arizona – Child care regulations call for a written accident, evacuation, and emergency plan with notation made for evacuation (not relocation), reunification, and children with special needs to participate in fire evacuation drill. Regulations are in the process of being revised and will include address assistance for special needs children in both fire and emergency evacuation. However, there is a moratorium on rule changes for funding reasons. Family Child Care Home Providers must have an evacuation plan, but none of the other provisions.

Arkansas – Arkansas has regulations for Day Care Centers and Day Care homes. Both reference evacuation plans with no specifics. However, they recently passed a law that includes evacuation/relocation, reunification, and special needs.

California – There are 5 types of licenses: Child Care Center, Family Child Care Home, Small Family Homes, Infant Care Centers, and Child Care Center for Mildly Ill Children. The child care center regulations are the most comprehensive including evacuation, relocation and addressing the needs of non-ambulatory children. Some of the other mandate disaster plans and disaster preparedness and evacuation. They could benefit from stronger wording in all areas and the emergency preparedness regulations should be equally strong in all types of facilities. Reunification is not present in any of the regulations; however, they are in the process of strengthening their regulations to include this.

Colorado – There are regulations for Child Care Center and for Family Child Care. The Child Care Center regulations discuss evacuation and reunification while family child care refers to the need for a written plan in the event of a natural disaster that must
include notification of parents and authorities, emergency transportation and specific procedures for responding to the crisis – no further details.

Connecticut – There are two sets of regulations: Child Care Center and Groups Day Care Homes and Family Day Care Homes. The child care center regs include a provision mandating programs to have a written policy, etc regarding emergencies that includes, “evacuation, including, but not necessarily limited to, transportation, location of an alternate shelter, community resources, and notification of the parents.” The Family Day Care home regulations require that they have an evacuation plan with no further mandates. Consequently, they will receive all nos. The childcare licensing folks in 2003 sent out a memo to providers entitled, “Be Prepared – Plan for Emergencies Now! In addition, there is an Emergency Plan Guidelines document available online.

Delaware – Licensing regulations for Early Care and Education and School-age centers, large family home day care, and family child care home all include the requirement for a written emergency plan that discusses evacuation, relocation, and parental reunification. Special needs is not included.

District of Columbia – The licensing regulations require a written contingency plan including evacuation and the annual emergency contingency plan that they file requires the relocation site to sign the Annual Emergency Contingency Plan indicating permission to use the relocation site. Currently, DC is updating its regulations to include reunification and special needs.

School - Despite many, many phone calls to a number of people in a number of departments (education, emergency, etc), no one returned a call so unable to determine whether they had a plan mandated.

Florida – The Child Care Center and Family Day Care standards note the need for an emergency evacuation plan. “Emergency preparedness is a high priority in FL.” They are currently revising regulations and as of 7/1 they will be required to have a relocation site as well as conducting a fire drill with an inspector present to observe the evacuation and relocation. Special needs are and reunification are to be addressed when the standards are revised.

Georgia – The Family Day Care Home and Group Day Care home regulations require a written plan for handling emergencies, but there are no specifications as to what should be included. The Child Care Learning Centers regulations (pre-K) indicate a written plan and as part of the application must include a written plan that includes evacuation/relocation and reunification. State licensing has an inclusion coordinator whose role includes providing TA to programs to assure the special needs of each child are address and comply with ADA standards. In the licensing orientation, the afternoon includes a piece on emergency preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness 2009
Hawaii – All licensed facilities are required to have a disaster plan for emergencies according to the regulations. Child Care licensing provides them with a disaster plan template that was created with the assistance of the Oahu Civil Defense Agency and is inclusive of all the elements we are seeking. Schools use OSHA requirements for a large business, which includes a provision for emergency planning.

Idaho – Childcare licensing appears to happen on a regional level with cities having their own licensing code. For example, Boise code has policy for evacuation, but not the state law. The State licensing people are providing emergency preparedness workshops, but there is nothing in code. In hearing what Save is looking for, the person interviewed indicated that such language could always be added. Schools are strongly encouraged to have written disaster plans, but as there is no funding behind the recommendation, it is hard to find resources for planning.

Illinois – Their regulations include the provision that there must be a disaster preparedness plan and there are references to evacuation, but not relocation. Special needs and reunification are not addressed; however, the regulations for all child care facility types (?) are in the process of being changed, but after talking with them, none of the revisions include relocation, reunification, or special needs. There is a draft of an Emergency Preparedness Guide for Childcare Centers put out by Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children that the childcare licensing folks knew nothing about. Brad Mansfield at a policy person would be interested in receiving more information regarding best practices and wording. His email is Bradley.Mansfield@illinois.gov

Indiana – The child care center regulations require written disaster, evacuation, and shelter procedures for an internal and an external disaster and the regs refer to evacuation, but nothing specific. The child care home regs require a written plan of evacuation for the child care home in the case of an emergency – no specifics. So, they do not get credit for having any of the criteria.

Iowa – There are two sets of regulations – Child Care Centers and Child Development Homes. The Child Care Center regulations require an emergency plan and the regs say to include evacuation and reunification. The Child Development Homes include the need for an emergency plan and make reference to notification. There is an Emergency Response Planning Guide for Iowa Child Care, but centers are not required to use this. According to the person interviewed, the current regulations do not get into specifics for relocation, but she believes that it may be in center handbooks. There is no special needs provisions. Everyone has emergency phone numbers, diagrams, and provisions to transport children. Renee Larson (512-281-0390) is interested in insights, tools, etc regarding disaster planning within the next year. “Swine flu, what to do when they need to shut down? We tend to deal with point in time, now that crisis is over where?”
The requirement to have a disaster plan for the schools is not in statute, but most schools do have disaster planning. IA Department of School Board has a policy that most schools follow and Natural Disasters Toolkit for Schools.

**Kansas:** There is an overall provision for safety procedures including an emergency plan, but there are no details. Programs seek guidance from the licensing and health departments. “We look to the local county health departments to mobilize in an emergency – they are the experts.” “The regulations are not as specific as we would like them and we plan to make them more specific over the next two years.” At this time, there is no law in Kansas regarding emergency planning in schools and, consequently, some schools do it while others do not. In March, Kansas started up a Safe Schools Resource Center whose first priority will be to get a mandate that all schools be required to have an emergency preparedness plan. Robert Hull is associated with the KS Safe Schools Resource Center and would like to see a copy of the Save report that results from this data. His email is: Robert.Hull@tag.ks.gov

**Kentucky** - They require a written plan and diagram outlining the course of action in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. In a report, there was a note indicating that it was important to develop reunification plans, but there is no mandate to do so. They do require 1/4ly emergency drills and leave the provision for children with special needs up to the provider. KY is in the process of revising their regulations.

**Louisiana** – Child Day Care Center Class A Minimum standards require “written procedures for emergencies and evacuation...” The Louisiana Model Daycare Emergency Plan includes evacuation, relocation, and reunification. However the Child Day Care Center Class B Minimum standards do not require it, so it is not included. Schools use the NCLB Safety plan addressing violence in the schools and do not have anything specific for disaster planning.

**Maine** – The child care regulations require that all licensed child care programs have an evacuation plan in case of fire, but not natural or manmade disasters. They do, however, have an emergency response planning guide – YIKES – for child care programs to use to develop an emergency preparedness plan. That plan includes evacuation, relocation, and reunification. However, since the regulations only said fire evacuation plan, I did not count it.

**Massachusetts** – There are 2 sets of regulations – Group Day Care and School Age Child Care Programs. Both include sections on Emergency Preparedness and include reunification, evacuation/relocation, and special needs.

**Maryland** – Currently, Family Day Care regulations are not as stringent as the child care licensing. However, a new law has been passed mandating that child care centers and family day care providers have comprehensive emergency preparedness plans that
include evacuation/relocation, reunification, and special needs. Regulations are currently being written.

**Massachusetts** – Both Family Day Care and Group Day Care regulations include all of the components that are being evaluated. The schools require a multi-hazard plan.

**Michigan** – The regulations vaguely refer to emergency procedures and an evacuation plan, but there are no specifics. They do require facilities to practice tornado and fire drills and provide technical assistance to programs in how to handle emergencies such as an intruder, a bomb threat, power outage, or other crisis. School: There is a state law mandating that the MI Attorney General, Michigan State Police, and Department of Education work together to create a model crisis response. However, the law does not mandate that schools have a plan. Some schools have received grant dollars to improve their safety planning, but this is not mandated.

**Minnesota** – The regulations for child care centers require an evacuation plan and location of emergency shelter; however, the regulations for day care centers only refer to fires. "It is just understood that programs have a disaster plan and that it is developed in cooperation with state and local government." Centers do plan for reunification, but it is not in the law.

**Mississippi** – Both Child Care Facility and Child Care Facilities for 12 or fewer Children in the Operator’s Home require an “evacuation plan including procedures for notifying the parents of the relocation site.” While this statement is simple, it identifies the evacuation/relocation and reunification components. Addressing the special needs of children is left up to the facility. Children who have an IEP or IFSP may have emergency accommodations needed in those documents. Mississippi licensing is rewriting their policies. They are now in the process of getting final approval and, therefore, can’t be shared at this time. They are looking to strengthen the evacuation, relocation, and reunification parts of the regulations. They are interested in receiving more information on best practices for addressing the special needs of children in care. Information can be sent to Gay Logan at gay.logan@msdh.state.ms.us

**Missouri** – Current regulations call for an evacuation/emergency plan without specifics. There are no specifications for relocation or reunification and the special needs phrase refers only to non-ambulatory children. However, they are in the process of rule revisions that are going up for public comment and include identifying 2 off site locations for relocation – 1 close to the center/home and 1 farther away. There is guidance on the web for providers to assist them in their disaster planning. For schools, there is an expectation that there will be an emergency preparedness plan, but there are no regulations that govern the whole state.
Montana – Child Care Centers and Family and Group Day Care Home regulations require a written fire and emergency evacuation plan with no further specifics. Emergency preparedness is a topic that they are starting to talk about. Schools are required safety plans that are in compliance with NCLB and school violence, and are not inclusive of natural or manmade disasters.

Nebraska – There are no regulations and the Child Care licensing people are not looking at disaster planning at this time. They are in the process of updating their regulations. For K – 12, schools that receive Title IV (School safety) funds are required to have a safety plan; however, not all schools receive title IV.

Nevada – Licensing regulations include evacuation and relocation. Reunification and special needs are not required, but some providers include them in their disaster plans. The extension service is offering training on emergency preparedness, but it is not mandated. Two weeks ago regulations changed requiring providers to review their disaster plans quarterly and update them annually. Schools are required to have a crisis plan with “crisis means a traumatic and sudden event or emergency condition that: 1. involves violence, 2. profoundly and negatively affects or will affect pupils or employees of a public school, or both; 3. Occurs on the property of a public school, at an activity sponsored by a public school, or on a school bus while the bus is engaged in official duties for a public school and 4. may involve serious injury or death. While you may be able to read between the lines here, I did not include this.

New Hampshire – The regulations for Child Care Centers and Family Based programs mandate that there be an emergency response plan that includes evacuation and relocation and reunification. In addition, providers are given “The Emergency Response Planning Guide for NH Child Care Programs” to assist them in developing their ERP. Included in this document are more detailed expectations as well as a statement indicating that special needs must be met.

New Jersey - Child care center regulations require evacuation/relocation, and reunification. However, the Family Child Care regulations only refer to evacuation and that is in the context of a fire. According to the person interviewed, centers are to be in compliance with the ADA, and the regulations require staff to have specific training to meet the special needs of children, which would include evacuation; however, this is not specified and therefore, receives a no. The person interviewed also indicated that, “it wouldn’t hurt to flesh it out more.”

New Mexico – New Mexico regulations require an emergency evacuation and disaster preparedness plan with no specifics included. However, they recently updated their Child Care Manual to include the specifics.
New York – There are four types of child care licenses in New York and all include under Safety that there must be a plan, evacuation routes, and how parents will be notified. On the licensing application, applicants must indicate their relocation sites. Special needs children are no addressed in the regulations. Providers are expected to complete information on children with special needs including how to evacuate.

North Carolina – There is an emergency evacuation plan policy in place along with a template that includes evacuation/relocation and special needs, but not reunification. Each provider/center must come up with an evacuation plan using the components of the template. It is up to the center to work out reunification with the parents. The person at the schools indicated that hazard procedures are part of their safe schools act; however, when reading the safe schools act and other supporting references that were provided, there was nothing in the documents other than threats related to student behavior and school violence.

North Dakota – Child Care Centers are required to have an emergency plan and evacuation plan, but there are no specifics and none of the other facilities that are licensed require more than an evacuation plan. The floods were a “big wake-up” call for them. When emergency management officials were working on evacuation plans, day-care centers were not identified as needing assistance. The state licensing agency and CCRR are working together to beef up the standards. On the web site, there is a request from the Department of Health and Human Services asking programs to fill out a child care evacuation disaster plan. This plan makes providers define their relocation site. Schools have safety plans as required by NCLB, but are not multi-hazard.

FYI – I thought this was interesting from the State licensing bureau who itself has a disaster plan. The Division of Child Development has a Disaster Plan “that In the event of an emergency, the role of the Division of Child Development (DCD) is to support child care providers and to assist in the provision of safe and healthy child care alternatives for families during and after disasters or emergencies. DCD’s Disaster Plan provides specific actions that the Division may take in emergency situations. This includes provisions for: the coordination and communication in the event of a disaster or emergency, coordination in the relocation of children in affected child care settings, the assessment of the ability of DCD/ partner agencies to function, the assessment of providers’ needs, and provision for the establishment of temporary child care.”

Ohio – All licensed homes must complete a “Medical, Dental, and General Emergency Plan” form that includes evacuation, relocation, and reunification. There are no instructions for special needs. The state gives providers national resource contact information such as the CDC and CARE to assist with this.

Oklahoma – All licensed facilities require a written plan for reporting, protecting from outside threats, and evacuating in the case of fire, flood, tornado... and are provided with Supplement III: Disaster Preparedness to assist them with this. Considerations on the
supplement include: evacuation and relocation, emergency contact information, and
determining how you will communicate the emergency situation with parents and
necessary officials. A bit weak, but there. Regarding special needs, providers are
"expected to meet the needs of all children, regardless of what their needs are." OK
made revisions to their regulations in November of 08, but they did not make changes for
emergencies. They anticipate within the next few years they will be doing revisions to
protect from outside threats. There are several trainers in the state who provide training
to child care providers in emergency preparedness.

**Oregon** – There are two sets of licensing regs – Child Care Centers and Family Child
Care Homes. The child care center regulations include evacuation, relocation, and
reunification, but not special needs. The Family regulations mandate an evacuation plan
exclusively. As both sets of regulations don’t include the provisions, they will receive all
nos.
The school standards speak in terms of emergency drills and instructions and reference
emergency procedures, including earthquakes and tsunamis.

**Pennsylvania** – All three types of licensed programs require an emergency plan that includes
evacuation, relocation, and reunification. There is a special needs statement for emergencies,
but it is related to medical emergencies.

**Rhode Island** - The day care center regulations go back to 1993 and speak only to fires.
The family child care home and group family child care home regs were redone in 2007
and include the need for an emergency evacuation plan, including reunification with
parents. Neither references special needs. They are interested in receiving information
on disaster planning in child care centers. The contact person is Pam Hall at
401-528-3624. Her mailing address is: DCYF, 101 Friendship Street, Providence, RI
02903, 4th Floor Licensing.

**South Carolina** – Day Care Centers and Family Day Care Home Standards require a
written disaster plan. Although the regulations stop at that, Child Care Services provides
providers with the “Child Care Emergency Plan Template” that includes Evacuation/
Relocation and reunification – not special needs. However, that is being worked on with
the new law, so there is an asterisk there.

**South Dakota** – Day Care Centers, Group Day Care Centers, and Family Day Care
homes are required to have a written emergency evacuation plan with no further
specifications noted. Providers are provided with emergency preparedness information,
but they individually decide what to do as they are private businesses.

**Tennessee** – Regulations for Childcare Centers indicate there must be a written plan to
protect children in the event of a disaster, but there are no specifics. Both the Childcare
Center regulations and Family Day Care regulations indicate that there must be a written
“individualized emergency plan” (Daycare Center) and “individualized evacuation
plan" (Family Child Care homes) for each disabled child who requires more assistance in emergencies than other children of the same age or in the same group.

**Texas:** Child care center regulations included Evacuation/relocation and reunification. There is a “catch-all” regulation for meeting the special needs of children, but it was more related to medical and programmatic issues. The Family Day care regs had Evacuation/relocation, but not reunification.

**Utah** – The child care center regulations include evacuation/relocation and reunification; however, the Family Child Care rules only include evacuation/relocation. Neither include special needs – it is up to the provider to determine whether they get that specific in their plans.

**Vermont** – Requires that an Emergency Response Plan be developed. The regulations specifically talk about evacuation and relocation while the ERP also includes reunification and special needs.

**Virginia** – Regulations in effect for Child Care Centers, but not family day care homes. However, regulations are in process (expected implementation 1/10) for family day care homes regarding them to have the same emergency preparedness standards as a child care facility. Emergency preparedness training is available to both child care centers and family day care homes. Special needs provision is noted in children’s record section.

**Washington** – Child Care centers have regulations including all provisions, however, family day care only mandates that there is a disaster plan and that an evacuation/plan procedures be posted. Although there is a request for a disaster plan, there are no guidelines for what is to be included in such a plan. Washington is currently revising the WAC for Family Day Care.

**West Virginia** – The regulations for Child Care Centers include all components, but the Family Child Care Home requirements notes the need for an evacuation plan, but does not include relocation, reunification, or special needs so it is not counted. The school contact indicated that under Title IV (Safe and Drug Free Schools) schools are required to have a crisis management plan that includes disasters. The focus of this program is safe and drug free schools with no mention of disasters. In addition, schools are not mandated to receive Title IV, but must apply for it. The person on the phone was adamant that disasters were included, but the Title IV documents don’t support that.

**Wisconsin** – Day Care Centers and Family Child Care Centers are required to have a written plan for responding to a fire, a tornado, a tornado warning, missing child, or other emergency. As part of the Day Care licensing visit, licensors review the written plans, assure that there are special evacuation considerations for children/staff/mental disabilities, safe location for children after emergency evacuations. The Family Child care center licensing review does not include the specifics noted above. According to the
person interviewed, specifics for evacuation/relocation, reunification, and special needs are left up to the center. They must have a plan and it must be submitted, but the plan is individual to each program. Schools do not at this time have a requirement for a written disaster plan beyond NCLB. The 2009 legislature had a bill to expand on the current safety plan by requiring that the plans be developed with fire fighters, school personnel, and law enforcement. They do offer disaster planning training around the state.

**Wyoming** — There was a recent rule revision that specifies that centers must have an emergency preparedness plan. However, there are no specifics as to what the plan is to include. At this time, each licensor, “has pulled a plan from Homeland Security and gives that to the providers.” The plan is another rule revision within two years. Schools – The Wyoming Department of Education sent out a member in 2007 saying, “we respectfully urge you to review your current Crisis/Emergency Operations Plans and do the following…” There are no mandates in place.