



FDNY

www.nyc.gov/fdny

Enforcement of Fire Drills and Non-Fire Emergency (EAP) Drills During the Present Coronavirus Outbreak

Concern has been expressed to the Fire Department about buildings conducting New York City Fire Code-required in-person fire drills and non-fire emergency (EAP) drills in the present circumstances. Such drills require building occupants to gather for 10 (ten) or more minutes in a building corridor or other close space. It has been suggested that even if scheduled drills are conducted, participation may be limited.

The Fire Department has determined to address these concerns by allowing (not requiring) building owners to postpone drills. Pending further notice, the Fire Department will not enforce timeframes for Fire Code-required building fire drills and EAP drills.

Building owners who elect to postpone drills are encouraged to distribute to all required drill participants, either on-line or in hard copy, written information addressing fire safety and/or non-fire emergency preparedness (as applicable). Pending further notice, if this information sufficiently addresses the required content of the fire or EAP drill, as set forth in Fire Department rule 3 RCNY 401-07 (available on the Fire Department's website), such written educational materials may substitute for the required drill (except for an EAP stairwell familiarization drill).

A log entry shall be made by the building owner or Fire and Life Safety Director indicating the postponement or delayed scheduling of any drill and the reason therefor, and/or the distribution to require drill participants of fire safety/non-fire emergency preparedness information. A copy of the information so distributed shall be kept on file and made available to the Fire Department upon request.

Please note that if the drill is also required by Federal or State law or regulation, such as the NYS Education Law, building owners should consult the Federal or State agency having jurisdiction as to whether postponement of the drill is authorized.

Building owners who have questions about drill postponement may contact the Fire Department using the Fire Code public inquiry form on the Fire Department's website or by calling New York City 311 and asking for the Fire Department's "Customer Service Center."

March 13, 2020