

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY

TO: All parents of pupils attending Bernards Township Public Schools and  
Bernardsville Senior High School  
FROM: Board of Education and the Office of Civilian Defense and Disaster Control  
RE: Dispersal of school pupils in case of an Air Defense Emergency

In January 1958, all parents of pupils attending Bernards Township Schools, including Bernardsville High School, were informed of a Directive issued by the State Department of Defense, directing dispersal of school populations in an Air Defense Emergency. Since schools generally are vulnerable to the blast and thermal effects of nuclear weapons, it has been decided to adopt a policy calling for the dismissal of school populations where warning time permits. Dismissal of school pupils will reduce the hazard of blast injuries and nuclear contamination of large groups of children in one area and preserve small family units, wherein parents can adopt protection, housing, and feeding measures as time and conditions will permit.

The State Department of Defense informs us, that when a REAL alert signal is authorized, sufficient time will be available for every school child to reach his or her home. They calculate a minimum of two hours will be needed to complete such an operation. If sufficient time is not available to send or transport children home, the "Take Cover" signal will be authorized and the entire school population will be evacuated to shelters in the respective schools.

On the Real "alert signal" (3 minutes of steady siren blasts), school buses will transport pupils home in the same manner as they do at regular dismissal times. Pupils not transported by bus will be sent home. There should be ample time for pupils to reach their homes before any Real "take cover" (3 minutes of fluctuating siren blasts) is sounded. These plans apply only to REAL siren signals, and not to tests or exercises, which usually are publicized well in advance of the actual time.

Under no circumstances should parents drive to the schools. Should a child be young or small, parents may if they wish, escort them from the point where the school bus normally transports pupils, but not from any of the schools.

In cases where parents are not likely to be home, they should make prior arrangements for children to go to relatives or neighbors. Children should be instructed of such arrangements.

If there is any doubt in the minds of any parents as to the intent of this directive, please call either of the names listed below.

Your utmost cooperation in effectuating the State Department of Defense directions will be appreciated.

George J. Fallon,  
Director of Civilian Defense  
and Disaster Control  
Bernards Township  
Be. 8-1993

Sincerely,  
M. D. Headington,  
Superintendent of Schools,  
Bernards Township  
Be. 8-1012  
Be. 8-0572

Date Issued - May 27, 1958