

Illinois Public Library Standards: Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Public libraries strive to be welcoming community centers safe for all who enter. Libraries should have written plans and policies to manage safety and security concerns, emergencies, and disaster recovery. Library staff should be well-versed in all emergency and safety plans, policies and protocols and have training on how to handle difficult situations with patrons. Local, state and federal safety and emergency laws should be reviewed on a regular basis. It is also critical that libraries maintain open lines of communication with the community and first responders.

STANDARD	CORE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
1	The library has a communication protocol to keep the board, staff and public informed in the event of a disaster or emergency.		
2	Staff have ready access to emergency call information for police, fire, director, board, and other relevant staff.	The library staff have ready access to all library key service providers (plumbing, electric, roofing).	The library has a designated team that works to provide safety and emergency training, protocols and communications to both staff and public.
3	The library provides training for staff on safety and emergency preparedness.	The library includes safety and emergency training in new employee on-boarding procedures.	In addition to safety and emergency training procedures, the library also offers medical training for staff (first aid, CPR, AED, etc.).
4	The library has a board approved Patron Conduct Policy.	The library staff is aware of the Patron Conduct Policy and understands how to implement it.	The library has a dedicated security staff person and/or a security surveillance system.

5	Library entrances, exits, evacuation routes, locations of designated tornado shelters, emergency supplies, fire alarms and fire extinguishers are clearly marked and visible for staff and the public.	Floor plans with designated emergency routes and equipment are displayed and shared with first responders.	The library has thorough documentation for emergency responders that includes location of mechanical, electric, plumbing, ladders, and current building blueprints.
6	The library maintains a stock of emergency supplies, which are stored in a clearly marked, designated location and are easily accessible to staff.		
7	The library has an emergency and disaster preparedness manual that is easily accessible to staff.	The library annually reviews and updates the library emergency and preparedness manual.	The library has a separate emergency and safety procedure manual for the public that is posted in public spaces.
8	The library has a disaster recovery plan that is kept in an off-site location.	The library has a technology recovery plan, in the event of a physical disaster or cyberattack.	
9	The library complies with local, state and federal emergency and safety guidelines, ordinances and laws.	The library seeks to be included in community plans and works with local agencies on contingencies for various crises (flood, snow, pandemic, active shooter) in which the library can play an essential role.	

10	The library follows all local and state requirements for emergency systems and equipment inspections.	The library has a maintenance protocol for all emergency systems and equipment that is reviewed on a regular basis.	
-----------	---	---	--