

All Schools Stay Prepared Through Regular Emergency Drills

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1 An emergency preparedness exercise involving a simulated armed perpetrator was conducted at Bukit Batok Secondary School (BBSS) on Thursday, 22 October 2023. Minister for Education, Mr Desmond Lee, was at the school to observe students and staff respond to a simulated security incident, demonstrating their readiness to manage emergency situations. This is one of the emergency drills that all primary¹ and secondary schools, junior colleges, Millennia Institute, and Special Education schools conduct each year.

Emergency scenarios for school emergency exercises

- 2 The exercise at BBSS, involving about 1,300 students and 160 staff, simulated a visitor turning hostile after he had entered the school premises. The school triggered its emergency response protocol, including activating internal communication channels and executing Run-Hide-Tell actions whereby staff and students underwent a school-wide lockdown, showing the readiness to manage such situations.
- 3 This is part of the regular emergency preparedness exercises that schools practice with scenarios spanning across different emergency situations, including fire evacuations, bomb threats, and uncooperative visitors. In consultation with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)

Bukit Batok Secondary runs armed-intruder drill as MOE details yearly school drills on 23 October

Description

Bukit Batok Secondary School ran an emergency exercise with a simulated armed perpetrator on Thursday (22 October). The Ministry of Education (MOE) detailed the drill in a press release dated 23 October, setting it within the round of emergency drills every MOE school runs each year. Education Minister Desmond Lee was at the school to watch students and staff respond.

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1 An emergency preparedness exercise involving a simulated security incident was conducted at Bukit Batok Secondary School (BBSS) on Thursday. Mr. Desmond Lee, Minister of Education, was at the school to observe students' response to the simulated security incident, demonstrating their readiness to manage such situations. This is one of the emergency drills that all primary ¹ and secondary schools, Normal (Special) Institute, and Special Education schools conduct each year.

Emergency scenarios for school emergencies

2 The exercise at BBSS, involving about 1,100 students and 160 staff, simulated a visitor turning hostile after he had entered the school premises. The school conducted a full-scale response protocol, including activating internal communication system, lockdown, and other actions whereby staff and students underwent a school-wide drill to test their readiness to manage such situations.

3 This is part of the regular emergency preparedness exercise conducted by all schools. The scenarios span across different emergency situations, including fire, flood, threats, and uncooperative visitors. In consultation with the Singapore Police Force,

MOE's press release on school emergency drills, published on 23 October. Screenshot: moe.gov.sg

What happened at Bukit Batok Secondary

The exercise involved 1,100 students and 160 staff. The scenario was a visitor who turned hostile after entering the school grounds.

The school triggered its emergency response protocol. Staff activated internal communication channels, and students and staff carried out Run, Hide, Tell actions as the whole school went into lockdown.

Every school drills each year

All MOE primary and secondary schools, junior colleges, Millennia Institute and special education schools hold emergency drills every year. The scenarios cover:

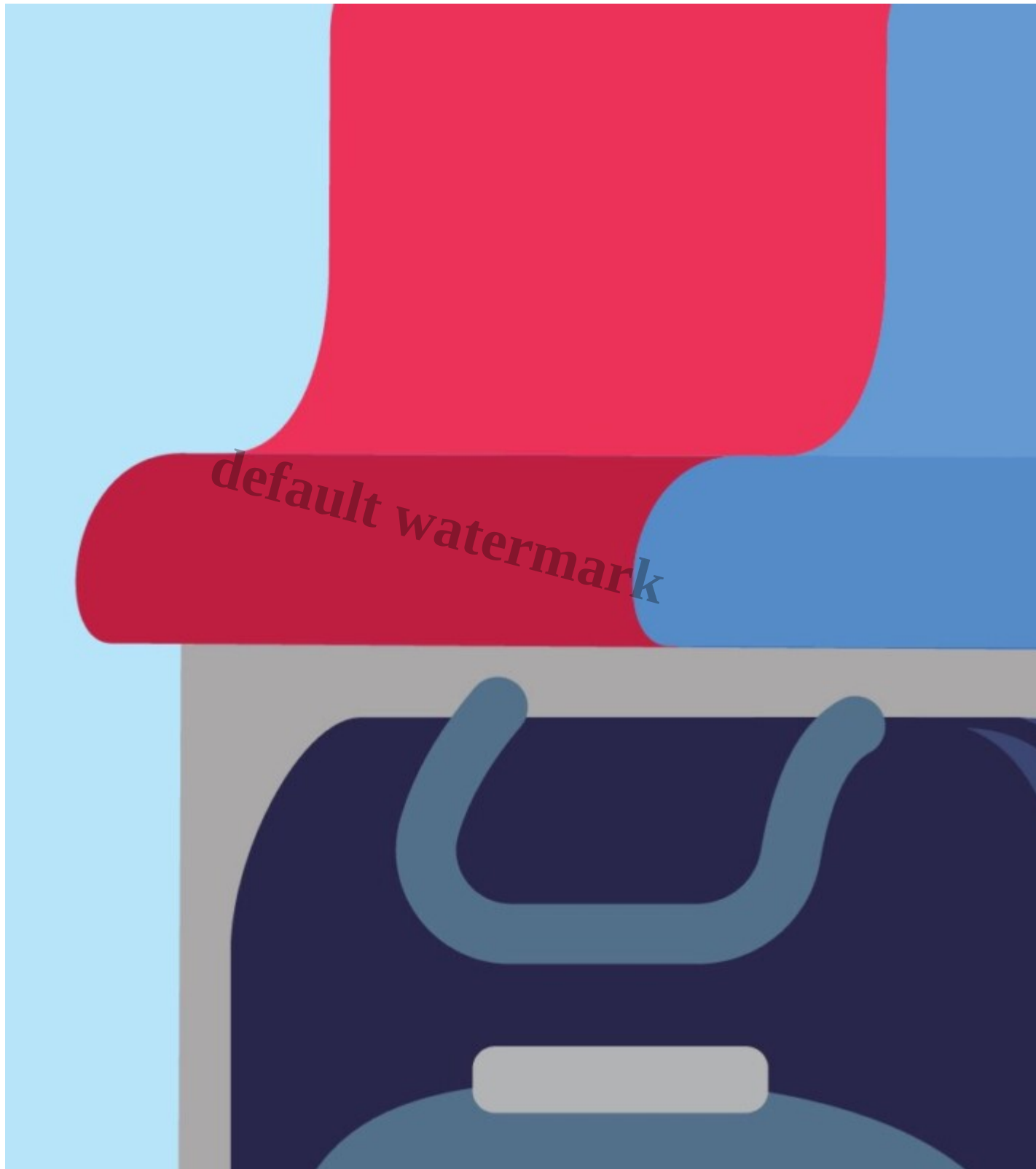
- Fire evacuations
- Bomb threats
- Uncooperative or hostile visitors

MOE reviews the drills regularly and adds new scenarios as threats change. The aim is for students and staff to know the safety procedures across a range of situations, not one type of threat.

Designed with SCDF and the police

The drills are planned in consultation with the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Singapore Police Force. MOE describes them as realistic and progressive, so that schools can review and update their protocols after each one.

After every drill, school leaders and teachers in charge run a post-drill briefing to go over the procedures with students and staff.



The drills tie in with the national SGSecure movement. Image: SGSecure

Beyond schools

MOE also works with institutes of higher learning on their readiness for emergencies. For selected school and campus staff, it runs workshops and scenario-based discussions on potential threats from inside a school and nearby.

The drills complement SGSecure, which teaches the public what to do in a security incident. For students, that means knowing how to protect themselves and get help, starting from primary school.

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