Hazardous Materials Scenario

The second Thursday of November is a big day at ____________________ School. This year marks the third annual Turkey Trot Race. The fun-filled day includes a half-mile run for each class as well as events for students, family members, and teachers.

It is a perfect day for the festivities, with clear skies, moderate temperatures, and winds from the southwest at 3 miles per hour.

At 11:30 a.m., first-grade students, together with 15 parents/guardians and 10 teachers, have returned to the cafeteria for lunch. The kindergarten class, along with 25 parents/guardians and 10 teachers, have just arrived in the race area, which is located _____________ of the third grade classrooms and _____________ of the basketball courts. At 11:40 a.m., one of the teachers at the race area notifies the principal that a strong ammonia odor is present and that she has heard police or fire sirens in the vicinity. The family members and other teachers present are quite concerned.

Scenario Questions

1. Based on the information available at this time, what are your immediate concerns?

2. What initial actions should you take?

3. What should you do next?
Hazardous Materials Scenario (Continued)

4. Draw your initial ICS organization in the space below, including personnel assigned to each position (by title), in the space below.

5. For what contingencies should you plan?
Hazardous Materials Scenario Update #1

The principal has ordered that everyone at the race event report to the cafeteria and remain there until the situation is resolved. As the children head back to the school, several start pushing and shoving in their rush to “get away from the smell.” One little girl has fallen and banged her head on the sidewalk. She has been carried to the nurse’s office, but she is bleeding heavily from a laceration just above her right eye.

The school nurse has sent a volunteer to report that five students and two adult family members have come to her office complaining of difficulty breathing. One of the students has asthma but the nurse does not know whether or not to allow the student to use his inhaler.

Update #1 Questions:

1. What actions should you take based on this new information?

2. Draw your current ICS organization in the space below.
Hazardous Materials Scenario Update #1 (Continued)

3. How will you notify families? What will you tell them?

4. For what contingencies should you plan?
Hazardous Materials Scenario Update #2

It is 11:45 a.m. A fire department official has called the school to notify the principal of an anhydrous ammonia leak at an adjacent warehouse immediately south of the school. The fire department recommends an immediate evacuation of the school and surrounding neighborhoods and instructs the principal to evacuate from the parking lot at the southeast corner of the school facility.

Teachers at the cafeteria report that family members indicate that they want to leave immediately and take their children with them. Family vehicles are parked on the streets surrounding the school and in the school parking lot.

Update #2 Questions:

1. What actions should school personnel take based on the directions received from the fire department?

2. How many buses are required to accomplish a complete evacuation? How long will it take them to arrive? What is your estimated time requirement for completing the evacuation?

3. Will you need to make additional ICS assignments to accomplish the evacuation? If so, draw your new organization below.
Hazardous Materials Scenario Update #2 (Continued)

4. What will you tell the families who want to take their children and leave?

5. For what contingencies must you plan?
As evacuation efforts are being coordinated, 20 additional children complain of feeling sick. The teachers are voicing their reluctance to permit the children to leave the school. They feel it is much safer to stay inside.

One parent who has decided to leave wants to take other families’ children who live in the same neighborhood.

Update #3 Questions:

1. What should you do about the children who are feeling sick?

2. What should you do about the parent who wants to take additional children home?

3. How will you ensure that the entire school facility is evacuated and that everyone (including students, family members, and staff) is accounted for?