MOBILE & MODULAR UNIT
SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

Due to the ever increasing student population, it is becoming more necessary for schools to implement the use of mobile/ modular units until the population growth can be met with renovated or new construction. It is necessary that all precautions be made to ensure the same amount of safety for the students and faculty using these facilities, as that of those occupying the primary building(s).

The following are suggestions to help ensure that safety:

- Do not use bricks, blocks or metal objects to prop doors for the units. These items may be used as weapons or objects of vandalism.
- Mobile unit doors should remain locked to prevent unregistered or unwanted visitors from gaining access to the unit. Signs directing visitors to check in at the office should be posted.
- Mobile units should be clearly marked on several sides with large, distinguishing numbers or letters to assist public safety officials in their response efforts in the event of an emergency.
- Mobile units should have two-way communication to the main office and their occupants should be able to hear all intercom announcements.
- Mobile units must have a smoke detector, fire alarm pull station, or audible fire alarm speaker located inside the units. Is the system separate from the main building's system?
- Trailer hitches should not be exposed as they are a possible pedestrian hazard.
- The mobile units’ exterior power boxes should remain locked. An unlocked power box could allow for possible electrocution accidents or vandalism.
- The area surrounding the mobile unit(s) and the covered pedestrian walkway leading to the units should have adequate exterior lighting.
- The units should be equipped with some type of skirting to restrict access beneath the units to prevent placement of contraband, arson activity, truancy or vandalism.
- There must be no vehicle parking within 20 feet of the mobile units. This will prevent possible fire hazards and blockage of emergency evacuations. Further, this will minimize areas where hazardous devices may be hidden.
- Teachers’ names should not be visible on the mobile unit doors. This might provide the public with an easy identifier to target specific teachers.
- Mobile units should be equipped with ground tie-downs that meet windstorm and tornado safety regulations.
- Tornado shelter areas should be designated inside the main building for the mobile unit occupants. Students and faculty should be moved inside the main building once a severe weather watch has been issued. Identify areas in the building to continue classes.
- Mobile unit teachers must be equipped with a master key to the main building to provide quick entry in times of a crisis.
- As with any question you may have regarding the safety of your facilities, contact your GEMA/Homeland Security School Safety Coordinator for a site survey.

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