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Revolutionizing Disaster Response Safety Drills for Educational Institutions in 2023

- An innovative safety measure is introduced based on real-time, integrated training combining field exercises and discussions
- Educational institutions are empowered to enhance disaster response capabilities through real-life scenario training

The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho) is set to host the “2023 Safe Korea Drill for Disaster Response” on October 30. The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance the disaster response capabilities of educational institutions and cultivate a culture of safety within schools.

The Safe Korea Drill, a national disaster response exercise organized by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, will be conducted three times this year, focusing on various fields and topics. Specifically, the Ministry of Education will oversee the drill for five days, commencing on October 30 and concluding on November 3, with a primary scenario involving a fire outbreak in a school or similar facility.

This drill's main focus is on the implementation of an integrated and interconnected training methodology that combines practical field exercises with interactive discussions. By linking discussion-based training with on-site exercises, this approach ensures a realistic training experience, covering initial responses, training procedures, and recovery processes. Real-time field situational awareness will be achieved through the utilization of the disaster safety communication network*, a nationwide wireless communication system that connects disaster-related organizations such as police departments, fire departments, and local governments.

*Established and operated by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education, in partnership with kindergartens, special schools, university dormitories, and national university hospitals, will emphasize evacuation drills simulating fire emergencies. The aim is to assess response systems and ensure the safety of all members in the event of a fire.

Each provincial office of education and college will establish its tailored plans, conducting drills simulating various disaster scenarios alongside schools within their jurisdiction during the third week of the drill. Furthermore, schools at all levels will engage in experiential drills with active participation from both students and staff, tailored to the specific situations and requirements of each institution.

【 Ministry of Education’s Disaster Response Drills 】

| Date | Oct. 30 (Mon) | Nov. 1 (Wed) | Nov. 2 (Thu) | Nov. 3 (Fri) |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Training highlights | Drill to assess the response system between MOE and provincial offices of education (Emergency message is sent for drill) | Fire evacuation drill at a national university hospital (Chonnam National University Hospital) | Integrated response drill to respond to a fire at an elementary school science room at Yeongnam Elementary School; Kindergarten fire evacuation drill at Sejong Dabit Kindergarten; Fire evacuation drill for special schools at Sejong Yiim School. | Ministry of Education's fire drill (In-house training at the Ministry of Education) |

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho remarked, "We aim for this emergency drill to enhance the safety awareness and disaster response capabilities of students and staff, fostering a secure school environment resilient to diverse disasters."

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