

Hypothetical Scenario during Metro Explosion

Miranda Platt is the principal of an elementary school in Northern Virginia. At 2:45 PM, she learns that a series of bombs have just exploded in metro stations along the Red Line in Washington, D.C. Public officials do not believe the area around the school is in any danger, but in response to the bombs and associated fires – which have caused large numbers of casualties and threatened the integrity of the affected stations and tunnels – the metro system has been shut down. Concerns that this is a terrorist attack, and that the bombs may have released locally poisonous sarin gas, have led the officials to issue a shelter-in-place order for a one-mile radius around each explosion site.

While all of the students at the school live in the surrounding area in Northern Virginia (which is not in the danger zone), some have parents or guardians who work or engage in other activities in the District.

- If students are still in the school building:
 - Should they be kept there or not?
 - Who should be allowed to pick them up?
- If some students are already heading toward home on school buses, what should the bus drivers do?