



PSD Simulates Emergency Fire Evacuation Drill

By: JC Jaucian

Philippine School Doha's School Maintenance and Services Department (SMSD) led by its Vice Principal, Mr. Jose Santos, organized an emergency fire simulation on-campus last October 11 to train students on the right procedures for safe evacuation in case of fire or emergency.

Fire alarms and voice warnings were utilized over the school's public address system to urge the faculty, staff, and students to leave the building and proceed to their assigned assembly points. The **PSD Safety Squad**, class safety officers, and other important personnel, kept watch to preserve the calmness during the drill and to instruct the PSDians to move as efficiently as possible, guaranteeing an organized evacuation.

To ensure the safety of everyone in the school, the school's emergency response team consisted of several key roles: Dr. Alexander S. Acosta (school principal) as the Emergency Chief Warden, Mr. Jose P. Santos Jr. (VP-SMSD) as the Deputy Chief Warden, the academic vice principals as the Area Wardens, and the teachers and staff present in the classrooms during the drill as the Floor Wardens.

Floor Marshals included all other teachers and staff in the vicinity, **Floor Marshals and Safety Associates** were members of the Student Safety Squad, CAT, and Scouts, and **Fire Fighting Unit and First Aid Unit** were made up of pre-trained employees who were qualified to act during emergencies.

This emergency evacuation drill was implemented to safeguard the security of all school personnel and students as well as to provide them with guidance to safely leave the building in the case of an emergency like a fire or other unanticipated occurrences.

Moreover, the SMSD gave important reminders on the steps to follow when the fire alarm was alerted. Specifically, all occupants were instructed to stop other activities and evacuate in an orderly manner. Every occupant must proceed to the nearest assembly point and should not re-enter until the situation is deemed safe or only when instructed to. Additionally, everyone must be aware that Qatar's emergency services for fire, police, and ambulance can be contacted by calling the number 999.

The simulation was concluded when **Dr. Acosta** declared "*Fire out,*" marking the completion of the fire drill.

Notably, the **PSD Safety Squad** was a team created to ensure the safety of all the occupants of the school, supervised by the CAT Commandant under **Mr. Marlon G. Gabitano**. Each class safety officer also took part in counting the number of students to raise the white or red flag during the drill.

The same fire evacuation drill was also conducted in the afternoon for the training of the afternoon classes for the same purpose.



One after the other, young students vacate the school.

A teacher never stops guiding her students, even during an emergency.



Dr. Nida Garcia ensures the safe evacuation of the pupils who link their arms forward to keep the line.



A Qatar Guide and a member of the Senior Safety Squad work hand-in-hand in maintaining order during the fire drill.



A student raises a white flag to signify his classmates are all present.



In a fire drill, these Star Scouts keep the queue on their way out of the building.



To ensure all students are safe and sound, the class president is tasked to raise a white flag to show that none of his or her classmates are missing.

The Qatar Guides, together with Ms. Arlene A. Aboga, take a pose after assisting the students in reaching their respective assembly points.

