

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

August 2004

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

Recently, I attended a presentation on an update of the financial status of the State budget for education. During the presentation, a comment was made regarding the State revenue estimates and how the estimates may change depending on potential terrorist attacks. It caused me to reflect on how things have changed since 9/11. Before 9/11, I could not have imagined someone stressing the impact a terrorist attack would have on State revenue. It never before entered in my considerations when developing the annual school district budget.

Another example of how things have changed in planning for school administrators is the meaning of the term “the three B’s”. It used to mean Buses, Budgets and Boilers. Now it represents Bullies, Bullets and Bombs.

We are all facing new challenges as we continue to cope with the changes in our sense of security and the way it affects our schools. The staff of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools is ready to assist you in preparing for the possible obstacles that may come your way this year. As you prepare for “back to school”, here are 10 tips to help your new school year get off to a safe start:

1. Make sure school personnel have conducted a safety and security survey of the school grounds and buildings. Establish access control to the buildings, good exterior lighting, and shrubbery maintenance that permits good visual surveillance.

2. Make sure playground equipment and athletic fields are safe and appropriate.
2. Revise emergency management plans to include defined roles for school personnel and students. Equipment and supplies associated with emergencies must be secure and functional. Make sure classroom emergency plans are posted next to each exit door in each room which is used for instruction. Make sure communication gear and protocols are in place and functioning.
3. Set dates for emergency drills and exercises.
4. Designate three times during the school year for key personnel to meet for review emergency procedures.
5. Meet with first responders (top police, fire, first aid officials) to review safety and emergency plans.
6. Make sure all school staff (including secretaries, custodians, cooks, aides and other staff personnel) know their roles in the event of a crisis.
7. Update all demographic and health data on students and school employees to allow rapid response in emergencies.
8. Update all emergency contact numbers and post them in appropriate places.
9. Provide information on bullying, harassment (including sexual harassment), and personal safety. Include the recognition of signs and the procedures to be followed when detected.
10. Advise all school personnel to be

vigilant. Train them to be observant of potentially harmful behaviors, relationships, circumstances and remarks. Provide them reporting procedures.

Glenn Berry

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## FROM DEB . . .

The amount appropriated for the FY05 Safe Schools Program is \$4,122,368. After an anticipated three percent withholding, \$8000 for administration, and \$50,000 for the CHARACTERplus contract, the estimated amount available for school grants is \$3,990,697.

The Department received 84 continuation grant applications that requested just under \$4.2 million, exceeding the amount available by nearly \$204,000. After negotiating a six percent decrease, the Department approved 66 Safe Schools grants at \$2,880,084 and 18 Pilot Schools grants at \$1,075,387. Listings of the approved grants are posted on the Bulletin Board of the Department's Safe Schools website: (<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/>) Grants are approved for operation July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Questions about the Safe Schools grants program should be directed to the Department's Instructional Technology section which can be reached by telephone at 573-751-8247 or by email at [instrtech@dese.mo.gov](mailto:instrtech@dese.mo.gov).

Deborah Sutton, Director  
Instructional Technology  
DESE

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## THE SCHOOL'S ROLE IN PROTECTING WORKING YOUTH

Yearly, almost 2,000 Missouri youth under 18 are seriously injured at work. Nationally, teens are injured on the job every 40 seconds. A teen dies from work injuries every 5 days. Youth are injured at twice the rate of adults. As 80% of youth are employed some time during high school, school officials should know their role in prevention of these incidents. Missouri's Child Labor Law, administered by the Division of Labor Standards, protects our teens by keeping them from hazardous occupations and from being overworked. Also, the law assists our young workers in obtaining a quality education. Research proves when teens work too many hours, too late, educational attainment decreases, dropout rates increase, and alcohol and drug abuse increases. Teens working too many hours often fall asleep in class. This condition is known as sleep deprivation. School officials advise us a large number of their students suffer from this condition.

From Labor Day to June 1, work certificates are required for 14 and 15 year olds. The public school superintendent in the district where the teen lives, or his/her designee, issues the work certificate. Employment information and parental approval are required before issuance. This initial screening protects the teen from being employed in a hazardous occupation or from working too many hours, interfering with their education or their health. Entertainment Work Permits are issued by our Division for teens under 16 employed in the entertainment industry. School officials have the authority to either refuse to issue, or revoke, a work certificate if work is not in the best interest of the young worker's education. The Division will also revoke work permits at a school official's request.

For more information, contact us at: Missouri Division of Labor Standards, (573) 751-3403. Our website is [www.dolir.mo.gov/lr](http://www.dolir.mo.gov/lr). Send e-mail to [laborstandardds@dolir.mo.gov](mailto:laborstandardds@dolir.mo.gov). For further safety and health information:

National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) 1-800-356-4674,  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/adolespg.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/adolespg.html)

OSHA's Teen Worker page at [www.osha.gov/SLTC.teenworkers/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC.teenworkers/index.html)

UC Berkley's Young Worker Page for workplace safety curriculum at [www.youngworkers.org](http://www.youngworkers.org)

Colleen White, Director  
MO Division of Labor Standards

## **SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING**

Regional Safety Coordinator trainings provided by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools are tentatively scheduled as follows for next school year:

Rolla RPDC—Nov 2  
Southeast RPDC—Nov 3  
St. Louis RPDC—Nov 4  
(advanced training only at St. Louis)  
Kirksville RPDC—Nov 5  
Warrensburg RPDC—Nov 16  
Maryville RPDC—Nov 17  
SW Center for Ed. Excellence, Webb City  
Dec 2  
Kansas City RPDC—Dec 7  
Columbia RPDC—Dec 8

Basic Safety Coordinated Training (3.5 hours) will be presented in the morning.  
Advanced Safety Coordinator Training (3

hours) will be presented in the afternoon.

All District Safety Coordinators are encouraged to complete the 3.5 hour basic course at least one time. The material is updated continuously and it may be beneficial to attend this course every other year. The material presented includes:

- Role of the Safety Coordinator
- The components of a comprehensive school safety program (*Safety Review Checklist*)
- Missouri Safe Schools Act
- Violence prevention and the *Missouri Violence Prevention Curriculum Framework*

The 3 hour advanced course addresses different topics from year to year. Some of the information addressed in the advanced course will be rolled into the basic course for subsequent years. Safety Coordinators should attend the advanced course each year. This year the advanced course topics are:

- Safety review checklist update
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM): an approach to addressing public concerns about health and environmental risks associated with pesticides
- Internet Safety Program (i-SAFE)
- Science Lab Safety

## **PIPELINES**

Pipelines play an important role in our daily lives. Over 200,000 miles of pipelines run through this country representing an infrastructure that is vital to our economy, environment, safety, and standard of living.

Pipelines are marked by above ground signs to provide an indication of their presence, location, product carried and the name and contact information of the company that operates the pipeline.

Pipelines are located in areas called a right-of-way (ROW) and can run near schools and residential areas.

Pipeline operators take their responsibility seriously to ensure safe and reliable operations. Based on a comparison of the annual number of accidents and resulting injuries, transportation by pipeline is safer than any other form of freight transportation including: Highways, Railroads, Ships and Planes.

*What can I do to help keep pipelines safe?* Even with the many inspections and constant monitoring completed by operators, the public along the ROW should be vigilant and assist with identifying potential problems.

- Become aware of the presence of pipelines in your area.
- Know what to look for to recognize a pipeline emergency or unusual pipeline condition.
- Know what to do and who to contact in the event of a pipeline emergency.
- Notify the MO One Call at 1-800-DIG-RITE 48 hours in advance of an excavation. These calls are extremely important as they can help avoid pipeline ruptures resulting from digging which is the largest single cause of pipeline accidents. Based on the excavation location information provided MO One Call, the pipeline owner (and the owners of other nearby underground utilities) will be notified. The pipeline operator will locate and mark the specific location of the pipeline relative to the planned excavation and generally be on site to ensure safety during such work.

Suggested evacuation distances from ruptured pipelines depend on the product carried and can be a considerable distance.

For example, the suggested evacuation distance downwind of a propane release is ½ mile. The source of this information is the Emergency Response Guide, which is available at [http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/erg\\_gmu/erg2000\\_menu.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/erg_gmu/erg2000_menu.htm).

For answers to frequently asked questions about pipeline safety go to <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/pipelineinfo/faqs.htm#top>.

Mark Hilbert, Chairman  
Pipeline Association of Missouri

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## **IS BULLYING A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?**

Is bullying climbing to the top of public health concerns among Americans today? The answer must be a resounding “YES!” in looking at data that links bullying and criminal behavior, the five percent increase in female incarceration in the past 10 years, and the fact that 6,250 teachers are threatened daily. Bullying has been a significant factor in causing problems with self-esteem, isolation, depression, and school failure. The rise in teen suicide and the fact that 46% of those bullied have reported suicide ideation should sound an alarm. These problems are also a significant worry because they may be early indicators along the path to the possibility of a planned school attack carried out by a desperate student armed with a gun. Adults are beginning to recognize the need to stop the daily abuse young people inflict upon one another. But what can parents and teachers do to shift behavior and improve the outlook for youth? The answers are as complex as the problems, but change must begin with the significant adults who work and live with young people.

1. Success lies in helping students understand the need to prevent or eliminate low-level aggression. Studies show that schools addressing such behaviors as name-calling, put downs, exclusion and negative humor have fewer incidents of physical violence.

2. Working to reduce and prevent verbal, emotional and physical bullying by increasing empathy and communication skills is essential. Empathy allows the aggressor to understand the impact of the offense. This can enable the offender to experience remorse, which may prevent further offenses against others. Helping students articulate distress or conflict can create an avenue for prevention.

3. Once students learn to become change agents in response to bullying behaviors, they can lead the way to creating a kinder, more civil culture at home and at school. Reinforcing basic manners, recognizing the power of the witness, apologizing for offenses, and reporting to adults who are trained to appropriately respond is key.

4. We must be willing to change our thinking in order to help young people change their behavior. We must take an objective look at what influences our own behavior. Striving for media literacy, avoiding sarcasm and negative humor, and making sure children are guided rather than verbally or physically assaulted for their mistakes will help them to feel emotionally safe.

5. Adults can support children by reinforcing skills that enhance their understanding of their own emotions while learning to successfully relate to peers and adults. Creating a climate for emotional safety can significantly reduce the potential for school violence.

We might be surprised at the small changes we could make that would make a BIG difference to those around us. By making good manners and good communication our daily goal, we can model what it means to be the change agents we want our children to be.

Lynne Lang, School Outreach Educator  
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## SCIENCE LAB SAFETY

As reported previously, the science lab safety committee formulated by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools received applications for lab clean-up assistance from 92 school districts (107 public schools), 1 charter school, and 1 parochial school by the December 20, 2003 deadline. So far our initiative has only resulted in funding for the clean-up at a few of the applying schools. We are continuing to seek funding support and will keep the applicants informed of our progress.

The project committee met on January 8, 2004 to review the applications. We then began consolidating the applications onto one spreadsheet. When the committee next met on February 13, the spreadsheet development was still incomplete. Calls were being made to schools to clarify data. We eventually completed that consolidation on March 3 and had 2,424 different item descriptions listed. The spreadsheet was turned over to the HAZMAT professionals from KCMO Household Hazardous Waste and the Department of Natural Resources for combining rows that represent the same item and adding relevant coding. This work was completed by early July and we now have a list of 1318 different chemicals.

Meanwhile, in March, representatives from Department of Natural Resources, a partner organization for this project, visited three rural schools that applied, and KCMO Household Hazardous Waste visited three urban schools. The purpose of the visit was to confirm the inventory. We learned that the inventories submitted should be considered “approximations” of what will actually be on hand when the clean-up is conducted.

We have added the development of a training program on science lab safety as a component of this effort. Each school cleaned up would also receive a CD-ROM developed by Dr. Jack Gerlovich, Drake University, in collaboration with the project committee. The CD-ROM and the associated training will include information that science teachers in Missouri need to have available to them regarding safety standards. The CD-ROM will also include inventory management tools (for producing labels, separating non-compatibles, conducting inventories, generating material safety data sheets, etc.). The cost of the CD-ROM and associated training will be included in our grant application. Schools/districts not included in the grant application will have the opportunity to buy the CD-ROM at \$70 per copy when completed. Completion is expected by early September.

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## **YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF AMERICA, INC.**

Youth Crime Watch of America (YCWA) is a federally funded program that offers young people an active role in reducing crime in their schools and neighborhoods. They own and run their Watch program, with support from adults.

YCWA challenges youth to reduce drugs, violence, and crime, and it helps youth and adults recognize that youth can and must be part of civic problem-solving, community partnership development, and crime prevention.

YCWA can be found in more than 25 states as well as several foreign countries. It covers the globe from Miami, Florida, to Tacoma, Washington; from Connecticut to Tucson, Arizona, and from Sao Paulo, Brazil to the island of Guam.

Here are two examples of YCW students having averted potential tragedies:

1. An YCW member at South Panola HS (Batesville, MS) reported that a fellow student was bringing a gun to school, intending to shoot several students.
2. In Provo, Utah, YCW leadership training was responsible for encouraging a student to report another student who brought a firearm to a school basketball game.

Grants are available to schools applying for this program. To learn more about Youth Crime Watch go to their website: [www.ycwa.org](http://www.ycwa.org).

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## **SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT**

The Southwest Regional Professional Development Center, in collaboration with this center, is hosting a school safety summit on October 20, 2004, 8:30-4:00, at the Clarion Hotel, 3333 Glenstone, Springfield.

Topics will include:  
 Classroom Safety  
 Extracurricular Activity Security  
 Internet Safety  
 Media Relations During School Crisis  
 Meth Labs

Police Tactical Response to School  
Violence  
School Searches  
Suicide Prevention

Registration will be online at <http://education.smsu.edu/rpdc> or you may call 417-836-8888. Registration fees are \$50 per attendee for SWRPDC Consortia members. For others: \$125 for 1 attendee, \$225 for 2 attendees, \$275 for 3 attendees.

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## LEAD IN WATER

The July 1, 2004 Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that the drinking water in 70 out of 88 Seattle public schools was tainted with lead at a level exceeding the federally recommended levels. School administrators are replacing all pipes and fountains in four of the schools, while exploring cheaper options for the remainder. The district acted after parents had school water tested on their own and samples violated the EPA lead standard. Beginning in January, the district supplied bottled water to all schools with water systems built before 1997, shutting off fountains at those schools.

This case study would indicate you should have on file the results of lead testing on drinking water from systems installed more than a decade ago. MSBA Board Policy EBAB calls for periodic testing of fountains installed before 1987.

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## i-SAFE INITIATIVE

The Center for Safe Schools and the Regional Professional Development Centers are partnering with i-SAFE to train educators and law enforcement officials on how to present the Internet's safety curriculum in the classroom. The i-SAFE curriculum integrates teaching and learning activities for grades K-12, which cover key topics such as the tools and techniques that online predators use to lure and seduce kids. The lessons combine age appropriate discussions on collaborative learning projects that can be utilized in classrooms with and without computer access.

The following training sessions are scheduled:

- ✓ Sep 22: Cape Girardeau and Rolla regions (training location to be determined): point of contact is Cheri Fuemmeler, 800-401-6680, or [cfuemmeler@semo.edu](mailto:cfuemmeler@semo.edu)
  - ✓ Oct 8: Kansas City: point of contact is Linda Kostner, 800-555-9048 or [kostnerl@umkc.edu](mailto:kostnerl@umkc.edu)
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Dr. Russ Thompson, Associate Director of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, is the newsletter editor. If you would like to submit an article for a future *Missouri Safe Schools Newsletter*, please send him your submission by e-mail to [thompsonrs@umkc.edu](mailto:thompsonrs@umkc.edu) or mail it to:

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