

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

August 2005

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

A new school year is around the corner! As you are preparing for the upcoming school year, I know you are aware of the importance of preparing yourself and your staff with the best tools for successfully educating the young people in your care. As in the past, the staff of MCSS is ready to assist you in preparing for the difficult, challenging and rewarding work ahead of you this year.

A few things to consider as you prepare for a safe new school year.

- Review school emergency plans
- Conduct a safety and security survey of the school grounds
- Review procedures for keeping students safe in hot weather activities
- Post graphic emergency plans in each classroom

There have been a couple changes this summer at the Center. In June, we moved our offices across the street from the School of Education Building to 5301 Holmes. Also, the Basic Safety Coordinator Training is now offered for free on our web site (www.umkc.edu/safe-school).

In this newsletter you will find articles on the following current safety topics:

- FY05-06 Safety Coordinator Training for the year. Check date and time in this newsletter.

- i-SAFE (internet safety) FY05-06 Trainings. Check dates and times in this newsletter.
- Current School Safety Related Court Case
- “Dust-Off” Warning
- ICE (In Case of Emergency) System

As a reminder, again this year we are continuing the Share Your Success stories in the newsletter. Have you implemented a safety program that has gotten results? Share it with other safety coordinators in the newsletter. Write: berryg@umkc.edu.

Finally, thanks goes out to two school officials for alerting the Center about potentially serious school safety related issues. We were alerted about a hate group CD distribution program and the danger of students huffing the product “Dust Off” . Please continue to alert us of potential school safety issue. Once we learn of a potential school safety issue, we immediately research the subject, assess the danger, and then email an alert to all safety coordinators on our email list. If you have not provided us your email address, but would like us to contact you with these alerts. Please forward your email address to me.

Have a great school year and keep up the good work!

Glenn Berry

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

Basic Safety Coordinator training is now taken on line. Go to the homepage of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools (<http://www.umkc.edu/safe-school>) and follow the instructions. New safety coordinators should take this training as soon as they are appointed.

We are now offering a 6 hour Advanced Safety Coordinator training on site at each of the regional professional development centers. Here is the schedule for School Year 05-06:

November 7, 2005 – Springfield RPDC,
800-735-3702

November 8, 2005 – Rolla RPDC,
800-667-0665

November 9, 2005 – Cape Girardeau RPDC
800-401-6680

November 10, 2005 – St. Louis RPDC
800-835-8282

November 15, 2005 – Kirksville RPDC
660-785-4220

November 16, 2005 – Maryville RPDC
800-663-3348

December 6, 2005 – Warrensburg RPDC
800-762-4146

December 7, 2005 – Columbia RPDC
800-214-2753

December 15, 2005 – Kansas City RPDC
800-555-9048

January 30, 2006 – SW Center for Ed.
Excellence
888-855-9478

Register for the training by calling the regional professional development center where you want to attend at the telephone number listed above. The agenda will cover many different safety issues, including:

- Update Safety Review Checklist
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- TableTop Bioterrorism Exercise with Representatives from the Department of Health and Senior Services
- State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Presentation
- Internet Safety – Cyberbullying
- Revised Violence Prevention Curriculum Frameworks
- Threat Assessment
- Networking
- Hot Topics: Arts/Science Safety, etc.

FINGERPRINT CHECKS

In January 2005, a new statute took effect requiring all new hires who have contact with students to obtain a fingerprint clearance from the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In order to do that, schools must submit the names, addresses and social security numbers to DESE through the on-line "FBI Fingerprints and Substitute Certificate" screen. When DESE receives the fingerprint cards (completed by the local police/sheriff's department), we match them to the on-line request and forward them to the Highway Patrol who, in turn, sends them to the FBI. When the results are returned, in 8-12 weeks, DESE forwards the results to the school district.

Beginning in June, this requirement has been extended to school bus drivers who were, until then, required to have a background check when they applied for a school bus driver's license. This year, all substitute teachers are required to have fingerprint checks so we can establish a database and those individuals who stay in the same district in following years will not need to be fingerprinted again.

In the very near future, prints can be collected electronically by Identix, a contractor for the Missouri Highway Patrol, which has established Missouri Applicant Processing Services (MOAPS). MOAPS will electronically take and submit the fingerprints, and results should be returned to DESE within one week. While there will be an additional fee for MOAPS' service, the increased speed of results will likely make it very attractive for school districts. By August 1, MOAPS will be available at various sites across the state.

If your district has not received fingerprint results within three months, please contact our office to determine why. Please check on delayed results by calling 573/522-8761 or 573/522-8316.

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CHILD ABUSE CHECK

When you are screening new employees and volunteers, it is recommended that you have them complete and sign Missouri State Highway Patrol form SHP-159C, *Request For Child Abuse or Neglect/Criminal Record*, then process the form through the Division of Family Services for a free child abuse record search. This form will also give you the individual's statement of convictions for criminal acts. In order to get early confirmation that the individual has no Missouri felony convictions, a Missouri Highway Patrol name search can be accomplished for \$5 using the form. Name search results are available in about 2 weeks.

EXAMPLE STAFF HANDBOOK

We added an example safety section for a staff handbook to our website at the bottom of the downloads sub-page (www.umkc.edu/safe-school/downloads). The document is in MS Word to facilitate downloading and incorporating into your existing handbook. The topics addressed are:

1. Bodily fluids
2. Emergency management
3. Hazardous materials
4. Violence prevention
5. Fight intervention

ICE (In Case of Emergency) CAMPAIGN

In April 2005, a National "ICE" Awareness Campaign was launched in the U.K. by mobile phone service provider Vodafone with the endorsement of Falklands War hero Simon Weston, and the movement reached critical mass in the wake of the July 7, 2005 terrorist bombings in London. The idea is now beginning to catch on in other countries, including the U.S.A. (as reported in the *Washington Post*).

How it works! Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE.

ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately.

INHALANT ABUSE ALERT: DUST-OFF COMPRESSED-AIR CLEANING SPRAY

In March, 2005, a fourteen-year-old male student died from the effects of inhaling the contents of a can of Dust-Off compressed-air cleaning spray.

Health and law enforcement authorities report, inhaling the vapors of common household products — including hair spray, lighter fluid, shoe polish, paint thinner, and glue, as well as Dust-Off — is fast becoming one of the most popular forms of drug abuse among teenagers. Among the serious health threats such activities pose are nerve damage, loss of hearing, vision impairment, and death.

Additional information and sources are listed below:

- Inhalant Abuse (Falcon Safety Products Inc.)
 - Inhalant Abuse Increasing Among U.S. Teens, Reuters, 17 March 2005
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i-SAFE (Internet Safety) FY05-06 TRAINING DATES

Again this year, 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 Internets 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.

Four training sessions have been scheduled:

- ✓ Sept 27 - Cape Girardeau RPDC (training location to be determined): point of contact, Cheri Fuemmeler, 800-401-6680, or cfuemmeler@semo.edu
- ✓ Sept. 28 – Rolla RPDC: point of contact, Ellen McLaughlin, 800-667-0665
- ✓ Sept. 30 – Northeast RPDC: point of contact, Jenny Webb, 888-878-7732, or jwebb@truman.edu
- ✓ October 18, Northwest RPDC: point of contact, Marsha Martin, 800-663-3348

Additional training sessions are planned for Columbia, Springfield, Kansas City and St. Louis.

EXAMPLE PEST MANAGEMENT CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

We added an example pest management contract to our website in the integrated pest management section at the top of the downloads sub-page (www.umkc.edu/safe-school/downloads). The contract calls for integrated pest management procedures to be implemented in order to protect the safety of students and staff.

SCIENCE LAB SAFETY

The Science Lab Safety workshop with Dr. Jack Gerlovich, Drake University, which had been scheduled for Saturday, May 7th, in St. Louis is now rescheduled for Thursday, August 25th, and the registration point of contact is the St. Louis Regional Professional Development Center at 800-835-8282.

As reported in previous newsletters, we have been involved in the development of a training and science lab safety management tool. The Total Science Safety System CD-ROM produced by Dr. Gerlovich, in collaboration with the Missouri project committee is now available. The CD-ROM includes information that science teachers in Missouri need to have available to them regarding safety standards. The CD-ROM also includes inventory management tools (for producing labels, separating non-compatibles, conducting inventories, generating material safety data sheets, etc.). The cost of the CD-ROM is \$70 per copy. The CD-ROM was completed during the first week of November 2004 with the inclusion of a message from Dr. King, the Commissioner of Education.

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 or mail it to:

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