

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

August 2006

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

### WHERE DID THE SUMMER GO?

It is hard to believe that summer is winding down and preparation for the new year is in full swing. Russ and I have kept busy over the summer months preparing for the upcoming school year. We have been meeting with officials from State Government Agencies on school emergency planning and pandemic issues. We have also been updating information on the MCSS website, the safety review checklist and bullying prevention resources.

I want to thank all of the safety coordinators who completed the Annual Safety Coordinator Survey. We had a great response. One-hundred and ninety-nine (38 %) of the safety coordinators completed the survey. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to participate. Some of the survey highlights are listed below.

- Eighty-nine percent (172) of the respondents are either a building or district administrator.
- Forty percent (78) of the respondents marked their schools were using the buddy room procedure and green/red signal system in their emergency drills.
- The top five school safety issues that school districts dealt with during the FY05-06 school year were: Emergency Preparedness (66.5%), Bullying/Harassment (61.8 %), Cell Phones (50.3%), Internet

safety/cyberbullying (38.4%) and Access Control (38.4%).

*Note: To review the complete summary of the survey go to the MCSS website: [education.umkc.edu/safe-school](http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school).*

During your preparation for the upcoming year, take time to review your emergency management plans. As plans are being revised you may want to go to the Center's website to review the model emergency plans. Again, as in the past years, the MCSS staff will be ready to assist you in preparing for the possible obstacles that may come your way.

Have a great opening of school!

Glenn Berry

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## NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER TRAINING

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools is hosting a full-day training by the National School Safety Center at the Lenoir Center in Columbia, on Tuesday, October 10, 2006. The course title is "What if? The Role of Schools in Terrorism Preparedness." The training is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS). The training curriculum addresses:

- Building school capacity for self-reliance
- Role of schools in Homeland Security
- Understanding terrorism

- Schools as targets of terror

Registration is \$45 and includes the lunch meal. The registration instructions and the registration form are at:  
<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>

The training begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

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## **SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING**

The schedule for School Year 06-07 Advanced Safety Coordinator Trainings is:

- November 3, 2006 – Central RPDC, Warrensburg (800-762-4146)
- November 8, 2006 – South Central RPDC, Rolla (800-667-0665)
- November 9, 2006 – St. Louis RPDC (800-835-8282)
- November 10, 2006 – Southeast RPDC, Cape Girardeau (800-401-6680)
- November 16, 2006 - Southwest RPDC, Springfield (800-735-3702)
- November 28, 2006 - Northwest RPDC, Maryville (800-663-3348)
- November 29, 2006 - Northeast RPDC, Kirksville (660-785-4220)
- November 30, 2006 - Heart of Missouri RPDC, Columbia (800-214-2753)
- December 6, 2006 - Kansas City RPDC (800-214-2753)
- January 30, 2007 – Southwest Center for Educational Excellence – Webb City (888-855-9478)

Registration will be made directly with the Regional Professional Development Center.

This will be a six-hour training. The

topics being addressed include:

- ✓ Update of the Safety Review Checklist
- ✓ Bullying Prevention (Olweus Stop Bullying Now Project)
- ✓ Emergency Management
- ✓ Media—Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC)
- ✓ Pandemic Procedures
- ✓ MSIP Cycle Four—Violence Prevention
- ✓ Cell Phones
- ✓ Gambling Among Adolescents
- ✓ Prescription Drug Abuse
- ✓ Integrated Pest Management

It would be helpful if anyone who has not completed the Basic Safety Coordinator training does so on-line before attending Advanced Safety Coordinator Training. The Basic Training is free and is done online. Go to <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school> for the registration form and instructions.

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## **RADON**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) indoor air quality program is currently testing all the public schools in Missouri for radon. Since radon is a class A carcinogen, and it is found virtually everywhere, it is important to know where the elevated levels are. The EPA did a residential study and found that the northwest corner of Missouri is generally prone to higher levels of radon. Of course, this doesn't mean that the rest of the state is free from radon, and we have had many individuals report elevated levels in their homes from all over the state.

Since kids and teachers spend much of their time in schoolrooms, DHSS wondered how the radon levels in schools compared to the residential studies. To date all the

schools in 33 counties have been tested and some of the schools in another 15 or so counties. Long term radon test devices were placed in every ground-contact classroom in August and September, then collected in April and May and sent to the lab for analysis. Elevated radon levels were found in many of the schools in the northwest eleven counties, as well as in schools in the south central part of the state. Results for other schools are still coming in.

DHSS also picked one or two large districts every year and does what they call a "radon blitz". Volunteers are trained in radon measurement and do short term testing in these schools. Radon blitzes have been completed in the Belton School District, Park Hill School District, and St. Joseph School District so far.

For schools that are elevated, DHSS provides follow-up testing and technical assistance (and in some cases limited financial assistance with radon mitigation).

Since there are no laws regarding radon in Missouri, DHSS can only test and perform follow-ups in schools in which the superintendent and/or school board allow it.

DHSS has schools in approximately 20 more counties planned for this year. For more information, contact either Randy Maley (DHSS, 573-751-6102, [randy.maley@dhass.mo.gov](mailto:randy.maley@dhass.mo.gov)) or Barb Sassi (DHSS, 573-751-6090, [sassib@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:sassib@dhss.mo.gov)).

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## **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

The Highway Safety Division of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) administers the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program, through which

grant funds are made available for infrastructure or behavioral projects. Infrastructure projects might include sidewalks, traffic calming, speed reduction, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, and traffic diversion. Behavioral projects might include public awareness campaigns, traffic education and enforcement, and student education on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Missouri plans to have \$1.6 million in SRTS grants during 2006, \$2.1 million in 2007, \$2.7 million in 2008, and \$3.3 million in 2009.

For more information contact Todd Messenger, MoDOT, (573) 751-3320 or [todd.messenger@modot.mo.gov](mailto:todd.messenger@modot.mo.gov).

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## **CHILD LABOR SAFETY CAMPAIGN**

Missouri's child labor law (Chapter 294, RSMo) provides guidelines to employers who employ 14 and 15-year olds. For example, work certificates are required before employment begins; the certificates are issued by the local public school superintendent's office. In addition, there are time and hour restrictions for 14 and 15-year olds. These times differ whether a teen currently is attending school or is out on summer break. Most important, there are prohibited occupations listed (such as cooking, driving and roofing) which teens, parents, employers and school superintendents need to be aware.

The Division of Labor Standards at the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is running a child labor safety campaign. For information go to [www.TeensWorkSafe.com](http://www.TeensWorkSafe.com) or call Allen Dillingham at [allen.dillingham@dolir.mo.gov](mailto:allen.dillingham@dolir.mo.gov) or (573) 751-3403.

## **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created the Choose Respect website ([www.chooserespect.org](http://www.chooserespect.org)) to help reduce teen dating violence. Choose Respect is an initiative to help adolescents ages 11 to 14 form healthy relationships and prevent dating abuse before it starts. Healthy relationships are built on a foundation of respect.

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## **SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCY**

State statute 566.147, RSMo, prohibits sex offenders convicted under certain statutes, from residing within 1,000 feet of any public or private school (K-12), or child-care facility, in existence at the time the residency was established.

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## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

State statute 160.775, RSMo, requires every school district to adopt an anti-bullying policy no later than September 1, 2007.

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## **CRISIS COUNSELING HOTLINE FOR KATRINA EVACUEES**

Missouri has 10,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have not yet returned to the gulf coast. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) has implemented a FEMA-funded crisis counseling hotline through November 2006 for Katrina evacuees. The toll-free hotline number is 866-840-3940. For more information contact John Heckemeyer, DMH, at (573) 751-8087 or [john.heckemeyer@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:john.heckemeyer@dmh.mo.gov)

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AND DISASTERS**

There will be a one-day workshop of school administrators, counselors, social workers and nurses on disaster mental health in school settings. The workshop is September 19, 2006, at St. Louis University, the Busch Student Center, Room 170, 20 North Grand Boulevard, St. Louis. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., the program at 8:30, with the scheduled time to adjourn 3:30 p.m. Registration is on Heartland Centers' Learning Management System ([www.heartlandcenters.com](http://www.heartlandcenters.com)). For help with registration contact Christy McFarland, Heartland Centers' LMS Coordinator, (314) 977-8295 or [mcfarlc@slu.edu](mailto:mcfarlc@slu.edu). For more information about the conference contact Jenny Wiley, Department of Mental Health, (573) 751-4730 or [jenny.wiley@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:jenny.wiley@dmh.mo.gov).

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## **UPDATE TO SCHOOL BUS DRIVER INSTRUCTION MANUAL**

In the spring of 2006, a Certified School Bus Driver Instructor Curriculum and Reference Manual Revision Committee, comprised of Certified School Bus Driver Instructors from across Missouri, was formed. They generated a manual revision, including significant changes to each unit as well as the addition of a new unit on transporting early childhood students. Starting with the 2006 summer training sessions, Certified School Bus Driver Instructors receive the updated School Bus Driver Trainer Curriculum and Reference Manual.

For more information regarding this program and the manual contact Debra Clink, School Transportation Consultant,

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, at (573) 526-6949.

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## **DISPOSING OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

School districts can avoid having to go through the competitive bidding process for a waste disposal contractor by using one of the state contractors. There are three contractors approved through June 2007: Clean Harbors, Heritage, and Onyx. The contracts can be seen at <http://www.oa.mo.gov/purch/>. On the right side of the screen click the 7<sup>th</sup> bullet item (“where to go to find statewide contracts”). Then in line #2 (“Search for Keyword”) enter “hazardous.” Review the “Hazardous Substance Waste Disposal Services” contracts.

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## **TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS DURING EMERGENCIES**

Schools may need to initiate a request

for a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the school during an emergency. The TFR is requested through local law enforcement to the appropriate Federal Aviation Administration Air Route Control (ARC) center. There had been nine ARC’s covering the United States until this summer. That is being cut back to just three, with the one for our part of the country located in Fort Worth, Texas. Air Traffic Control towers which serve as a local interface are located at St. Louis Lambert, Kansas City International, Kansas City Downtown, Springfield, Columbia, Jefferson City, Joplin, and St. Joseph, but the request must go to the ARC for approval.

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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: Missouri Center for Safe Schools  
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