

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

August 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

I want to thank all of the safety coordinators who completed the Annual Safety Coordinator Survey. We had a great response. One hundred seventy-five (34%) of the safety coordinators completed the survey. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to participate. Highlights of the survey may be found in the article below.

As you go about planning 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. The staff of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools stands ready to help you prepare for the difficult, challenging, and rewarding tasks ahead of you this year.

As you prepare for the upcoming year, take time to review your emergency management plans. As you revise these emergency plans, review the example classroom/building/district/bus emergency plans posted at the Center's website (education.umkc.edu/safe-school).

Many school administrators have mentioned the increasing bullying and discipline problems occurring on school buses. Some best practices which have been found to reduce bullying and discipline problems on school buses are: create a distinct identity for each bus route, set up bus route meetings in the school building, and encourage positive relationships amongst students and the bus driver. We

will share more information on successful programs with you at the Advanced Safety Coordinator Trainings. The dates of the trainings are listed in the newsletter.

Glenn Berry

ANNUAL SAFETY COORDINATOR SURVEY RESULTS

The full results of the FY07-08 survey are available at <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>. There were 175 safety coordinators responding. 85% have functioning safety committees. 47% of the safety committees have parent representation and 24% have student representation.

The most frequently mentioned safety issues dealt with in FY07-08, along with the percentage of respondents that listed each, were:

Bullying/Harassment	79%
Emergency Preparedness	68%
Cell Phones	64%
Internet Safety/Cyberbullying	54%
Access Control	53%

61% now have buddy rooms assigned and use red/green signaling as part of the emergency response procedures.

The drills conducted during the first month of the school year, along with the percentage of respondents that conduct each, were:

Fire	99%
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Tornado	85%
Intruder	69%
Earthquake	48%

- ✓ Chemical Cleanup
- ✓ Hot Topics – Teen CERT, Registered Sex Offenders, Security Cameras and locks, Cell phones, etc.

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

The schedule for School Year 08-09 Advanced Safety Coordinator Trainings is:

- October 21, 2008 – South Central RPDC, Rolla (800-667-0665)
- October 22, 2007 – St. Louis RPDC (800-835-8282)
- October 23, 2007 – Southeast RPDC, Cape Girardeau (800-401-6680)
- October 29, 2008 – Central RPDC, Warrensburg (800-762-4146)
- October 30, 2008 - Southwest RPDC, Springfield (800-735-3702)
- November 11, 2008 - Heart of Missouri RPDC, Columbia (800-214-2753)
- November 12, 2008 - Northeast RPDC, Kirksville (660-785-4220)
- December 2, 2008 - Kansas City RPDC (800-214-2753)
- December 10, 2008- Northwest RPDC, Maryville (800-663-3348)
- January 22 2009– 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
- ✓ Earthquake Safety (Steve Bessemer, SEMA)
- ✓ Character Education (CHARACTERplus Representative)

It would be helpful if anyone who has not completed the Basic Safety Coordinator training does so 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.

SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL USE CHEMICAL CLEANUP

In February 2008 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allocated money to a grant program that fully pays the contractor fees for school chemical cleanup. The first schools to benefit from the new grant were the ones already registered under the unfunded cleanup program announced in the August 2007 edition of this newsletter.

The second phase of the DNR grant was opened to other K-12 schools (public and private) in April with an application deadline of May 16. The second phase has been extended, with applications being accepted through September 30, 2008. For application information and associated forms, go to <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/schoolcleanout.htm>.

Once selected for the grant, there are several DNR forms that must be completed by participating schools, including the Generator's Hazardous Waste Summary Report (Form MO780-1097) which is available at www.dnr.mo.gov/forms. For assistance with form completion, contact David Green at DNR, (800) 361-4827.

MISSOURI CENTER FOR SAFE SCHOOLS FEE STRUCTURE

The Center is partially funded by a grant through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. A school district requesting services from MCSS will be asked to pay a fee to offset some of the expenses associated with the requested service. Listed below is the fee structure:

- Teacher/staff workshops and student presentations, MCSS charges \$75 per hour (\$150 minimum)
- Safety reviews MCSS charges the district according to the following scale:
 - ✓ \$150 if there are 3 or fewer schools
 - ✓ \$300 if there are 4 to 7 schools
 - ✓ \$450 if there are 8 to 12 schools
 - ✓ \$600 if there are 13 to 20 schools
 - ✓ 21 or more schools fee will be determined by cost per building

TEEN CERT

Eastern Michigan University has a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to support high school Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) programs throughout the country. Participating schools receive curricular materials, back packs with individual protective equipment, and \$200 to offset the costs of delivering Teen CERT training at school. To get involved, you must have a CERT trained staff member attend a 3-day train-the-trainer. Once the trainer is trained, the school district has to enter into an

agreement with Eastern Michigan University on how the program will be delivered.

For more information, go to <http://www.teencert.org>.

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON COORDINATED SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) school safety conference is scheduled for August 14 and 15 at the Hilton Branson Convention Center, 200 East Main Street, Branson. The registration fee is \$225. For more information and registration go to <http://www.schoolsafetyconference.com>.

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

As discussed in the May newsletter, Missouri statute (RSMo 160.455) requires that school districts distribute to each student materials prepared by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) on earthquake safety. This is to be done at the beginning of each school year.

SEMA posted a brochure for this purpose, entitled "A Reference Guide for Missouri's School Districts to Access Earthquake-Related Information," on their website (<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/EQ.htm>, select "Safe Schools Flyer" in left margin). It has been determined by the General Counsel at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that schools must photocopy the SEMA-produced brochure and distribute it to students in order to fully satisfy the statutory requirement.

BUILDING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

If a school is damaged by an earthquake or a tornado, who can help assess the safety of the structure for continued use?

The Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) program coordinated by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) prepares volunteer architects, engineers, and building inspectors to assess the safety of the structures shaken by either an earthquake or a tornado. Both of those “lateral load events” result in similar structural damage. When activated by SEMA, SAVE trained professionals are sent into damaged areas for up to 3 days. They have the same right of access as the local codes officials they are supporting.

After a SAVE inspection team has assessed the school or other structure, they will post one of three placards:

- ✓ Red: Unsafe do not enter
- ✓ Yellow: Restricted use
- ✓ Green: Inspected and lawful occupancy permitted

For more information about SAVE, go to the SAVE brochure at www.sema.dps.mo.gov or contact Steve Bessemer, the Earthquake Program Manager at SEMA, (573) 526-9232, or Steve.Besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov.

RADON DETECTION PROGRAM

As of the end of the 2007-2008 school year, Occupational Safety and Health at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has tested the classrooms in 649 school buildings in 225 of Missouri's

public school districts. They also tested classrooms and dorm rooms in all but one of the 36 state schools for the severely handicapped, as well as the Missouri School for the Blind in St. Louis and Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton.

DHSS will continue the testing program for the 2008-2009 school year by performing initial screening tests for several more school districts, performing follow-up testing for the schools whose initial screening indicated elevations, and providing mitigation assistance to schools whose follow-up testing indicated a need for radon mitigation.

DHSS is sponsoring a statewide radon poster contest for all children ages 9 - 14. The first place winner's poster will be entered into the National Radon Poster Contest sponsored by the National Safety Council. Details will be sent to the principals of all elementary and middle school/junior high schools in the state in mid-August. This is a great opportunity to involve Missouri youth in helping to spread the word about the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer.

The Occupational Safety and Health Consultant at DHSS also provides technical assistance over the phone regarding issues of indoor air quality (mold, dampness, sick building syndrome, chemicals, odors, etc) to all schools in Missouri (public and private), and is available to give on-site technical assistance if it is determined necessary and requested by the school administrator.

Submit your request to Barbara Sassi, Occupational Safety and Health Consultant, DHSS, 930 Wildwood Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109, barbara.sassi@dhss.mo.gov, 573-751-6102, or toll-free 866-628-98981.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

LifeRAFT (Recovery After Flood Times) is the flood crisis counseling grant for which the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) has applied. When awarded this grant will support crisis counseling outreach in Lincoln, Pike, Ralls, St. Charles counties for immediate services to last until August 27. DMH will have the opportunity to apply for a FEMA Regular Services Grant for an additional nine months. If your schools are impacted by the Mississippi River flooding or you have students impacted and believe that you will need crisis counseling outreach within your school system when your schools begin the

new school year, please notify Jenny Wiley at DMH so that she can include this as part of her needs assessment for the Regular Services Grant. Jenny's phone number is: 573-751-4730 or email her at jenny.wiley@dmh.mo.gov

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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