

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

February 2006

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

Recently, I read an article about a national study on school emergency preparedness conducted by the University of Arkansas. The study (available at www.pediatrics.org) found that many public school districts have important deficiencies in their emergency plans.

Three thousand, six hundred and seventy superintendents from across the country were randomly selected to take the survey. Nationally, there are approximately 14,000 public school districts. The response rate was 58.2%. A few results from the study follow:

- 86.3% of school superintendents reported having a response plan
- Only 57.2% have a plan for prevention
- 95.6% have an evacuation plan
- 30% had never conducted a drill
- 21% had no disaster plan provisions for children with special health care needs
- 25% reported having no plans for post disaster counseling
- 42.8% had never met with local ambulance officials to discuss emergency planning

The researchers concluded:

- School emergency/disaster plans have important deficiencies.
- Urban districts are more prepared than rural districts.

- Coordination between school officials and local medical officials is inadequate.

This raises the question: *How prepared are school districts in Missouri?* I believe we are ahead of other states, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

The focus of the Advanced Safety Coordinator trainings this year had been Emergency Management Planning. A key component of the training was the opportunity for school officials to meet State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Area Coordinators. A special thanks to the SEMA Area Coordinators (Bruce Fisher, Area A; Bob Bailey, Area B; Derek Lohner, Area C; Candy Adams, Area D; Mark Winkler, Area E; Gayla Weber, Area F; Terry Toler, Area G; Steve Cheavens, Area H; and John Hummel, Area I) for their involvement in the training. Thanks also to Mark Buxton, Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, Department of Health and Senior Services, for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak at each of the regional training sessions. These officials provided information on resources and materials that are available to assist school districts in planning for emergencies.

Get acquainted with your local emergency responders if you have not already done so. They are critical to the safety and well-being of our students and staff in an emergency. As stated in the University of Arkansas study: "Good coordination with local EMS agencies is important in emergencies because of the limited training and experience of school

personnel in handling medical emergencies.”

Glenn Berry

WORKING WITH YOUR LOCAL LEPC

Warsaw R-IX has been working closely with the Benton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The relationship was started by the appointment of district safety coordinator, Bill Gant, to the Benton County LEPC. This helped bring a fresh perspective and greater level of cooperation between the school district and the local emergency planning committee. LEPC Chairman Jim Barber is very influential in developing a great working relationship with not only the LEPC, but other local organizations. Several times annually the LEPC conducts tabletop exercises to help with response and to work out any problems that might arise. The school district participates in these tabletops and works closely with the LEPC in developing more efficient ways to handle disasters.

The support of the LEPC has benefited Warsaw R-IX in many ways. For example, with the help of LEPC members, Warsaw R-IX was recently approved for a Rural Automated External Defibrillator (RAED) Grant. This grant is offered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in response to the large number of senior adults that are moving to rural areas. The purpose of the grant is to help rural fire and police departments place Automated External Defibrillators in the hands of personnel that could respond to emergencies faster than the nearest ambulance or medical assistance. Due to the large numbers of senior citizens who attend sporting events, concerts,

graduations, and other school sanctioned events, the school district successfully applied for the grant.

Bill Gant, Safety Coordinator
Warsaw R-IX

CERT FOR SCHOOLS

A tornado has just hit a corner of an elementary school, and damage throughout the neighborhood is extensive. Students and staff have taken shelter within the building, but power is out, cellular phone service is down, and emergency help will not arrive soon.

Who will conduct an assessment of injuries and damage? Who will offer initial first aid? The building’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is trained and prepared. Those staff members who have taken the 24-hour emergency response class will be able to conduct search and rescue, triage the injured and organize the efforts of those at the scene. When fire, ambulance and police personnel arrive, the CERT members, who are first responders, will speak the same language and be on the same page.

CERT training covers disaster preparedness, fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, search and rescue plus other areas.

The Independence School District has more than 50 staff members trained as CERT volunteers through the Independence Fire Department. CERT members are identified in a drill or disaster by green hard hats, vests and badges. Quarterly meetings and an annual exercise day update their skills.

This national certification program, free

to participants, offers ideal training for school district staff members to assist in emergency situations in their homes, neighborhoods, work places, churches and definitely in schools.

School districts interested in the training should contact a local or area fire department, or a city emergency preparedness director to see who is offering the program. Additional information might be found at:

www.citizencorps.gov/programs/cert.shtm.

A link is provided to the CERT home page, which offers more detail.

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NIMS COMPLIANCE

School leaders who have emergency responsibilities as set forth in their school district emergency management plans should be adequately familiar with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to interact effectively with the emergency response professionals in their communities. That being said, there is no federal or state mandate that school leaders complete specific coursework. The Missouri NIMS Training Recommendations Matrix has a column for "all emergency responders" and a column for "elected officials." Both call for completing IS 700 (NIMS: An Introduction) and IS 100 (Introduction to Incident Command). Depending on local emergency plans, school board members and school administrators may or may not fit into one of those categories.

The US Department of Education, in their criteria for the 2005 Emergency Response and Crisis Planning Grants gave 15 out of 100 points toward grant scoring for quality of the management plan, including: "The applicant's description of how their project is coordinated with their state or local Homeland Security Plan and how they plan to support implementation of the National Incident Management System." USDE left that a vaguely stated criterion for awarding of grant dollars. Expect that type of statement in all future emergency management grant announcements from USDE.

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools recommends that key school district leaders complete IS 700, IS 100, and IS 200. It would be a good idea to acknowledge NIMS in school district emergency plans. This could be as simple as a definition of NIMS in the glossary and a statement about NIMS compliance in the foreword.

FEMA VIRTUAL CAMPUS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers many courses online, including: IS 700 (NIMS: An Introduction) and IS 100 (Introduction to Incident Command). New students should go to <http://training.fema.gov/EMIweb/IS/> to learn about how the virtual campus works and how to get started.

Pay attention to the detailed instructions on how to get course credit.

The Virtual Campus seems to have difficulty with MS Explorer. Try using Netscape Navigator. During normal business hours the response time has been very slow. You will have better access after

hours and on weekends.

SCIENCE LAB SAFETY COURSE

A science lab safety CD-ROM was produced by Dr. Jack Gerlovich, Drake University, in collaboration with an interagency committee facilitated by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. 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.). Schools/districts have the opportunity to buy the CD-ROM at \$90 per copy.

There will be a training offered by Dr. Gerlovich on the CD-ROM as a pre-conference session for the Interface Conference, Sunday, February 26, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Tan-Tar-A. For information about conference registration, go to www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/conference/sciencecon.htm. For information about the workshop and the CD-ROM contact the Missouri Center for Safe Schools.

INTERNET SAFETY (i-SAFE) TRAINING DATES

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 safety curriculum in the classroom. The i-SAFE curriculum integrates teaching and learning activities for grades K-12, covering 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.

Upcoming training dates:

March 9, 2006 – Rolla RPDC

Contact person – Ellen McLaughlin
Phone number – 800-667-0665

March 29, 2006 – Maryville RPDC

Contact person – Steve Johnson
Phone number – 800-663-3348

March 30, 2006 – Warrensburg RPDC

Contact person – Carrie Scales
Phone number – 800-762-4146

MULTI-HAZARD PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

The FEMA Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools Course (2 days) will be offered by the State Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with the Missouri Center for Safe Schools on June 8-9, 2006. The location is the Oasis Inn & Convention Center, 2550 North Glenstone, Springfield. Class times will be 8:00-4:30 each day. There is no registration fee. The enrollment deadline is June 1st, but you are encouraged to apply on line (<http://training.dps.mo.gov>) as soon as possible since there are only 30 spaces. Call Russ Thompson at 816-235-5656 if you have questions.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION WEEK

February 6-10, 2006 has been designated

as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week. For more information, contact Glenn Berry (816-235-1042) or Christine Hollingsworth, DESE.

NATIONAL INHALANTS AND POISONS AWARENESS WEEK

The Fourteenth Annual National Inhalants & Poisons Awareness Week will be March 19-25, 2006. For more information call 800-269-4237.

CDC TOOLKIT ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES AND HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Recently, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the availability of the Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports toolkit. The toolkit is for athletic staffs (coaches, athletic directors and trainers) across the country. For more information go to the website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/coachestoolkit.htm>

PEER MEDIATION AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for the Heartland Mediators Association 2006 School Peer Mediation Awards. The winning programs will be honored at the HMA Annual Conference on April 28-29, 2006 in Kansas City, Missouri.

School peer mediation programs at any

level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, in Missouri and Kansas, are eligible for the award. Application requirements include a written description of the programs accomplishments suitable for publication in the HMA newsletter. Include the name of the school, grade levels in the program, number of students involved, and how long program has been in existence. The description may be written by a sponsor or by a student participant.

Last year's winners were Northeast High School, Kansas City, Missouri, and Council Grove Middle School, Council Grove, Kansas

Applications should be received before March 20, 2006. The nominations will be judged by a panel consisting of HMA members.

Please submit your nominations to the Heartland Mediators Office at 8826 Santa Fe Drive, Ste.208, Overland Park, Kansas 66212 c/o Don Hampton. For more information please email Don Hampton at donhampton@onemain.com

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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