

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

February 2009

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

A personal note: Recently, I submitted my letter of retirement from my position as Director of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, effective June 30, 2009.

I have been with the Center for Safe Schools for eight years and served thirty years in public education. Since I became Director in June 2001, we have transformed the Center into a statewide and national school safety resource. It is with much thought and deliberation that I have made this decision. After discussing this with my family, and considering my personal goals and my continuing journey as an individual, I believe that I have made the right decision. I have given the Center my best over the years and I am proud of my accomplishments. It is time for me to retire, however, because it is an opportune time for someone else to lead this organization to greater heights as it is time for me to take myself to greater heights as an individual.

I would like to express my appreciation to my colleague, Russ Thompson, and to each of you. I have collaborated with many old friends, and I have developed many new friends throughout the Great State of Missouri as a result of my work over the past eight years. I wish all of you the best. I know that the good work you do will help ensure the safety of our students and staff!

Tentative MCSS Leadership Transition Plan:

Russ will assume the Directorship for the 2009-2010 school year. Applications for Assistant Director will be available later this month. The Center will be moving to the Heart of Missouri RPDC (Columbia) in June.

As Always, Safety First,

Glenn Berry

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## POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: CENTER FOR SAFE SCHOOLS

The following position is announced for a new office being opened in Columbia on July 1, 2009:

Position: Assistant Director, Missouri Center for Safe Schools

Job responsibilities:

1. Provide staff development and support for school safety programs, including:
  - a. Violence prevention
  - b. Emergency management
  - c. Playground safety
  - d. Chemical safety
  - e. Safe schools legislation
2. Manage safety coordinator training
3. Conduct school district safety reviews
4. Present on school safety at state conferences
5. Develop and distribute documents to be used by school districts in managing school safety

6. Serve as editor for a periodic state school safety newsletter
7. Manage the website for the center
8. Represent DESE and school positions on various state committees
9. Maintain work records and manage invoices to school districts and clients of the center

Experiences that will be useful to succeeding in this position:

1. Superintendent, assistant superintendent, school principal, and/or alternative school director
2. School district safety coordinator
3. Classroom teacher
4. EdD, PhD, or Ed Spec
5. Word processing
6. PowerPoint presentation preparation
7. MS Excel spreadsheet preparation
8. Internet and e-mail skills
9. Budget management
10. Office staff management

Characteristics of someone who will succeed in this position:

1. Willingness to drive throughout Missouri and live out of a suitcase much of each week
2. Works alone without direction
3. Self-motivated
4. Good communicator
5. Plans to remain with the Center for 5 or more years

The position announcement (listed as Project Director Safe Schools) and application form are being posted on the University of Missouri website <http://hrs.missouri.edu/muemployment.html>. If you have questions send them to [thompsonrs@umkc.edu](mailto:thompsonrs@umkc.edu) or call 816-235-5656.

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## **ADVANCED SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING**

The schedule for Advanced Safety Coordinator Training next school year is:  
October 13, Kirksville  
October 14, Columbia  
October 15, Rolla  
October 21, Cape Girardeau  
October 22, St. Louis  
October 27, Maryville  
October 28, KC  
October 29, Warrensburg  
November 4, Webb City  
November 5, Springfield

The training we present runs from 9:00-3:30 at each location with a working lunch.

The agenda for the training will be finalized in April. It is already confirmed that Steve Besemer, State Emergency Management Agency, will present on catastrophic event preparation.

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## **INTERNAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS**

Rockwood R-VI developed an internal safety checklist. It is gleaned from the Missouri Center for Safe Schools' safety review checklist, the National Center for Safe Schools' checklist (Ron Stephens) and the MSIP safety expectations. They have inspection teams of 8-10 members consisting of administrators, teachers, nurses, maintenance personnel, parents, SRO's, etc.

The school inspection reports are submitted to the monthly district safety committee meetings for discussion. The inspection findings are used to generate work orders as appropriate.

For more information contact Dennis Griffith, Rockwood R-VI, coad5@rockwood.k12.mo.us.

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## **IPM AT SHELL KNOB**

When Mitch Ermey first began working as the Director of Maintenance at Shell Knob a couple of years ago, he was handed a DVD on Integrated Pest Management produced by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He watched it, then started implementing what he learned:

1. No more scheduled floorboard spraying of pesticides
2. Sticky traps positioned throughout the school
3. Traps monitored routinely and logged
4. Preventative maintenance on-going (weather stripping, door sweeps, caulking, etc.)
5. Pest management contractor called when pests are identified
6. Pesticide use is minimized, the pesticides used are the least toxic, and spot treatment with baits is now the norm
7. Records are kept on the whole process

If pesticide treatments are called for, they are accomplished after school closes for the evening of the weekend. Mitch now plans to post notices before and after pesticide applications. For more information about IPM at Shell Knob, contact Mitch at mermey@sks.k12.mo.us.

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## **CERT TRAINING**

Individuals can prepare for or refresh Community Emergency Response Team training by taking self-study course IS317 online at the Citizen Corps website (<http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317>). There are 20 lessons in the course, each taking 20-30 minutes. This course is not on the Emergency Management Institute website.

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## **UNINTENTIONAL INJURY DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a report entitled "Patterns of Unintentional Injuries among 0-19 Year Olds in the United States, 2000-2006" ([http://www.cdc.gov/safekid/Child\\_Injury\\_Data.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/safekid/Child_Injury_Data.htm)). The report states that overall the unintentional injury death rate for children was 15.0 per 100,000 population. The death rate, during that period, for Missouri was 21.2 per 100,000, well above the national average. Of the 8 neighboring states, 4 had better rates (Illinois 12.0, Iowa 15.2, Nebraska 16.7, Kansas 19.5) and 4 had worse rates (Tennessee 21.6, Oklahoma 21.8, Kentucky 23.1, and Arkansas 26.4).

The Centers for Disease Control also provides an on-line tool, WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System), to make data from the National Violence Death Reporting System easily accessible. WISQARS links information from multiple sources to more fully understand the circumstances of violent deaths, however Missouri is not one of the 16 funded states included. To learn more, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>.

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## **MULTI-HAZARD EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's 2-day Multi-hazard Emergency Planning for Schools Course will be offered by the State Emergency Management Agency in Independence, Missouri, June 24-25, 2009. Class time each day is 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Last check there were 20 seats remaining. Apply on line at <http://training.dps.mo.gov>. Those who reside more than 50 miles from Kansas City may request lodging.

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## **SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL USE CHEMICAL CLEANUP**

Last year the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, on behalf of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, collaborated with the Department of Natural Resources, the Homeland Security Safe Schools Working Group, Missouri United School Insurance Council, and others to organize a one-time, statewide cleanup of instructional use chemicals.

A total of 243 schools (203 public and 40 private) have been involved in the School Chemical Cleanout Project. So far the project has removed and safely disposed of outdated, dangerous and unstable laboratory and instructional use chemicals from science and chemistry labs, storerooms and other classrooms in 161 elementary, middle, and senior high or vocational schools. These chemicals posed a significant public health and safety threat to students and faculty. Chemicals have not yet been collected from the remaining 82 schools in the project, 32 of which have not submitted the necessary

fees and paperwork to register the hazardous waste for disposal.

The project was conducted in two phases. The first schools to benefit from the new grant (Phase I) were the ones already registered under the unfunded cleanup program announced in the August 2007 by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. Phase I involved 107 schools (75 public and 32 private; including the 13 schools from which chemicals were collected prior to February 2008 when DNR funding became possible). Of the 94 Phase I schools included in the funded grant, cleanout is complete in 90, with the total invoiced cost being \$154,184.21.

The second phase of the DNR grant was opened to other K-12 schools (public and private) in April 2008 with an application deadline of May 16 (Phase IIA). 61 schools (60 public and 1 private) were awarded grants in Phase IIA. Clean up is complete at 52 Phase IIA schools, with the total invoice coming to \$82,962.19.

The second phase was extended, with applications accepted through September 30, 2008 (Phase IIB). There were 65 schools (58 public and 7 private) that applied for Phase IIB. Only 1 Phase IIB cleanout is complete at this time.

The second phase was extended a second time, with applications accepted through December 31, 2008 (Phase IIC). There were 5 school applications submitted.

After chemicals are collected, participating schools submit the Generator's Hazardous Waste Summary Report (Form MO780-1097 which is available at [www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1097.pdf](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1097.pdf)). David Green is the DNR resident expert on the form and can be reached for assistance at

(573) 751-3204 or (800) 361-4827.

More information about the cleanup can be found on the Department of Natural Resources website

(<http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/schoolcleanup.htm>).

**If you missed this opportunity to dispose of hazardous chemicals, you can still have your containers of mercury properly disposed of at no expense to the school by calling Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 573-634-2436. They will also directly exchange mercury-containing thermometers for alcohol containing thermometers.**

If you have questions about this collaborative project, contact Russ Thompson, Missouri Center for Safe Schools, (816) 235-5656 or [thompsonrs@umkc.edu](mailto:thompsonrs@umkc.edu).

## ADMISSION OF HOMELESS STUDENTS

While RSMo 167.171.4 may be used by a school district to deny enrollment to a person attempting to transfer enrollment from a school where they are currently under suspension or expulsion, a homeless person (as defines in RSMo 167.020.1) should be handled differently. Enrollment should not be denied for the homeless child/youth (McKinney-Vento Act). The pupil should be enrolled, then a hearing can be conducted regarding the suspension or expulsion from the previously attended school and the suspension/expulsion can then be upheld for imposition by the newly entered school. For more details go to monograph titled "Admission of Homeless Students with a Record of Safe Schools

Violations" on the download sub-page of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>.

## RADON

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas formed by the natural radioactive decay of uranium in rock, soil, and water. Naturally existing, low levels of uranium occur widely in the earth's crust, and can be found in all 50 states. Once produced, radon moves through the ground to the air above. Some gas remains below the surface and dissolves in groundwater.

Radon gas further decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in the lungs. As these particles decay further, they release bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer over the course of a person's lifetime. Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon will develop lung cancer, and the amount of time between exposure and the onset of disease may be many years. The EPA estimates that radon causes about 20,000 deaths from lung cancer after cigarette smoking. One in five homes in Missouri has elevated levels of radon gas.

Fortunately, the level of radon exposure in homes, schools, and other buildings can be determined through a simple, inexpensive, and effective test. If elevated levels are detected, proven mitigation techniques can be used to lower the levels.

**Free radon test kits** can be ordered online from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Radon Program at [www.dhss.mo.gov/Radon](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Radon) or by calling 573-751-6102 or 866-628-9891 toll free in

Missouri. To find out if your school has been tested for radon, call the same number.

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## VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION GRANT

The American Psychological Foundation (APF) provides financial support for innovative research and programs that enhance the power of psychology to elevate the human condition and advance human potential both now and in generations to come.

APF is committed to funding the application of psychology's unique problem-solving perspective to understanding and preventing violence.

**Amount:** Up to \$20,000

**Goals:** The program seeks:

- To encourage the transfer of psychological science with regard to violence, its prevention, and intervention strategies to applications within the community;
- To support the implementation of innovative community programs aimed at preventing violence.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or educational institutions or affiliated with such an organization. Special consideration will be given to programs with a strong foundation in violence prevention and intervention research and those that have, or show promise for broad-based community support. APF will consider requests for seed money to establish promising interventions proposed by community-

based organizations or to provide funding for established community programs that have been deemed successful

### **Proposal Content (Not to exceed 7 pages (1 inch margins, no smaller than 11 point font):**

Describe specifically how the program is based on and applies current psychological research and knowledge and answer the following questions:

- What is the project's goal? Please give an overview of the proposed program
- What is the potential impact of the program on the community?
- How does the proposed project relate to the applicant organization's mission?
- What are the intended outcomes, and how will the project achieve them?
- What is the timeline for accomplishing the activities associated with the proposed project?
- What is the total cost of the project? Please provide a full budget and justification. Indirect costs (e.g., overhead) are not permitted.

**To Apply:** Submit a proposal and CV of the project leader online at <http://forms.apa.org/apf/grants/> by **June 1, 2009**.

For more information, visit [www.apa.org/apf](http://www.apa.org/apf). Questions about this program should be directed to Emily Leary, Program Officer, at [eleary@apa.org](mailto:eleary@apa.org).

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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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