

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

May 2006

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

As this school year comes to a close, we in the Missouri Center for Safe Schools (like each of you) look back on the things we have accomplished, the things we didn't get to, and the things we wished we'd done.

I want to recognize the five members of the MCSS Advisory Board who will be leaving the board the first of June. Words cannot express how much I have appreciated their time, effort, leadership and commitment to the important issue of school safety and support of the Center. The members departing are:

- Ms. Julie Cole-Agee, Executive Dir. MO Juvenile Justice Association
- Dr. Dan Colgan, Superintendent, St. Joseph School District
- Dr. Jerry Cooper, UMKC School of Education
- Rep. D. J. Davis, Lafayette County
- Dr. John Martin, Superintendent, Grandview School District.

It's time for the Annual Safety Coordinator Survey. In May, letters will be sent out to all district safety coordinators' asking them to go to the Center's Website ([education.umkc.edu/safe-school](http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school)) and complete the online survey questionnaire. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated and your comments are extremely helpful to the Center.

Russ and I are preparing for the FY06-07 Advanced Safety Coordinator Trainings. The sites and dates are:

- November 3, 2006 – Central RPDC
- November 8, 2006 – South Central RPDC
- November 9, 2006 – St. Louis RPDC
- November 10, 2006 – Southeast RPDC

- November 16, 2006 - Southwest RPDC
- November 28, 2006 - Northwest RPDC
- November 29, 2006 - Northeast RPDC
- November 30, 2006 - Heart of Missouri RPDC
- December 6, 2006 - Kansas City RPDC
- January 30, 2007 – Southwest Education Center – Webb City

Times and agenda will be posted in the August 2006 Newsletter. You can go to our website to check additional safety coordinator training information.

As the school year winds down, I wish each of you a safe and successful graduation and closing of the school year. May you all have a relaxing summer. As always, keep up the good work!

Glenn Berry

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## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

School districts should be including pandemic influenza in the list of hazards to be addressed by their emergency plans. The federal and state government agencies provide excellent resources. You will find a useful school pandemic planning checklist at [www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/schoolchecklist.html](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/schoolchecklist.html). The Missouri plan for pandemic influenza is at [www.dhss.mo.gov/PandemicInfluenza/](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/PandemicInfluenza/).

The Missouri Pandemic Influenza Plan (working document Version 2.0, Feb 9, 06) provides for the response to a highly transmissible (person-to-person) and novel (new) influenza virus causing unusually high rates of morbidity and mortality. It employs the primary disease prevention strategies:

- Targeted vaccination aimed at high-risk

- populations
- Public information and education
- Enhanced surveillance
- Isolation, quarantine, public facility closures and other control measures

The Missouri Pandemic Influenza Plan includes the assumption that illness rates during a pandemic influenza outbreak would be highest among school-aged children, with up to 40% becoming ill. The typical incubation period for influenza averages 2 days. People who become ill may shed the virus and can transmit infection for one half to one day before the onset of symptoms. Children will shed the greatest amount of virus and, therefore, are likely to pose the greatest risk for transmission. The pandemic outbreak in an affected community will last 6 to 8 weeks.

The Missouri plan utilizes the 6-phased response of the World Health Organization plan. Phases 1-5 apply to localized outbreak. Phase 6 is the pandemic period when there is increased and sustained transmission in the general population. We expect the local public health agencies will be working closely with schools in their local jurisdictions. Missouri's plan emphasizes basic hygiene (i.e. good handwashing), sanitation (classroom cleaning, sanitizing hard hand contact surfaces routinely, etc.), and ill exclusion policies rather than closing schools.

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools is working with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to incorporate guidance on pandemic preparation in the examples of school multi-hazard plans on the "downloads" sub-page of our website ([www.umkc.edu/safe-school](http://www.umkc.edu/safe-school)).

The example emergency standard operating guidelines for classrooms includes a section on health emergencies and bioterrorism. In that document we describe some of the basic hygiene and reporting considerations that would be important in a potential pandemic.

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## USDOE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT GRANT

The application for the Fiscal Year 2006 Emergency Response and Crisis Management (ERCM) grants will become available on May 7, 2006 and be due on June 20, 2006. These dates are subject to change.

To assist LEAs applying for the ERCM discretionary grant competition, the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools (OSDFS) is offering the following support:

- A list of **Frequently Asked Questions** is available at [www.ercm.org](http://www.ercm.org) - most applicant's basic questions can be addressed through this resource.
- A series of ten "**Grant Q&A Calls**" will be held - starting in mid-April through mid-June - to answer any questions applicants have about the grant competition and how to complete the application. Each call will be open for one hour and is limited to a maximum of 75 participants. If all the phone lines are occupied when you dial in, please make arrangements to call in on an alternate date and time.

### Directions for participating in the "Grant Q&A Calls":

- **STEP 1:** Dial 1-800-473-7795 (*except on May 19 when the call in number is 1-800-473-8692*)
- **STEP 2:** You do not need a password to enter the call but you will be asked to name the chairperson. The chairperson for each call is: SARA STRIZZI
- **STEP 3:** The Sprint operator will ask for your Name and Email Address before patching you into the call. Please be prepared to share this information.

The dates for the Q&A Calls are as follows:

- Monday, May 1 at 2:00 pm
- Monday, May 8 at 11:00 am
- Friday, May 19 at 12:00 pm - *please note alternate dial in number*
- Tuesday, May 23 at 1:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 31 at 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 6 at 9:00 am
- Friday, June 9 at 3:00 pm
- Wednesday, June 14 at 10:00 am

OSDFS Contact Person:

Sara Strizzi

Sara.Strizzi@ed.gov

Fax: (202) 260-7769

Telephone: (202) 708-4850

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## MULTI-HAZARD PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

The FEMA Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools Course (2 days) will be offered by the State Emergency Management Agency on June 8-9 and June 21-22, 2006. The location for June 8-9 is the Oasis Inn & Convention Center, 2550 North Glenstone in Springfield and for June 21-22 is the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management, 14847 Ladue Bluffs Crossing Drive in West St. Louis County. Class times will be 8:00-4:30 each day. The Missouri Center for Safe Schools is collaborating in the presentation of the Springfield training.

There is no registration fee. Apply on line (<http://training.dps.mo.gov>) as soon as possible since there are only 30 spaces at each training site. Call June Simonton at (573) 526-9121 if you have questions.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT

The Missouri Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Juvenile Justice Unit will conduct a Title II Grant Pre-bid Seminar on Friday, May 19 or Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at Room 492, Harry S. Truman Building, 301 W. High Street,

Jefferson City, MO, 10:00 AM—1:00 PM. The 2006 Title II grant application will be available for download at [www.dps.mo.gov](http://www.dps.mo.gov) beginning on May 19, 2006, and the grant proposals must be postmarked by July 14, 2006. School are eligible applicants.

Approximately 1.0 million dollars is available for this funding period, and unlike in previous years, there is no award ceiling. Title II funds will be awarded in support of court services, diversion programming, aftercare & reentry programming, and the study of disproportionate minority contact. The DPS point of contact is Steve Bruce, 573-526-1931.

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## INTERNET SAFETY & CYBERBULLYING

Upcoming i-Safe PDP training dates:

- July 19, 2006 Southwest Center for Educational Excellence, Webb City, 417-673-7078, [www.southwestcenter.org](http://www.southwestcenter.org)

Cyberbullying Resource

- Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use at: <http://cyberbullying.org>

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## SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) convened a Committee on School Transportation Safety. A Special report on "The Relative Risks of School Travel" has been published and is available. The report can be accessed at: <http://trb.org/publications/sr/sr269.pdf>

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## OPERATION SAFE TEEN

Law enforcement agencies around the state are participating in *Operation Safe Teen* – an enforcement and educational campaign focusing on reducing injuries and deaths among young drivers on Missouri roadways.

“Our young drivers are a high-risk age group,” said Leanna Depue, director of highway safety for the Missouri Department of Transportation. “It’s imperative that we all work together to change this alarming reality,”

Consider these facts:

- In the last three years, nearly 600 young people died in traffic crashes in Missouri. Of those who had access to a safety belt, 78 percent were not buckled up.
- Safety belt use among teens is 56 percent – an increase of three percent over last year. In contrast, this usage rate is dramatically lower when compared to Missouri’s overall safety belt usage rate of 76 percent.

The campaign includes an aggressive advertising effort supported by enforcement of Missouri’s traffic laws, including provisions of the Graduated Driver License law that make safety belt usage a requirement for teens and their passengers.

*For more information contact Tempe Humphrey at 573-751-4161 or 573-694-1181 or Lieutenant John R. Davis at 573-335-6621 extension 1095*

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## **EPA HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS ASSESSMENT TOOL**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created a new resource earlier this year. The Healthy School Environment web site is at <http://www.epa.gov/schools/>. Included is the Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT). While many of the items on the checklist are “good ideas” that are not based on regulations, we found 47 that were useful in improving our Safety Review Checklist.

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## **PEST MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS**

A survey questionnaire on pest management

policies and procedures was sent to all 527 Missouri school superintendents in late January 2006. Completed surveys were received back from 254 school districts. Here is what you said:

- 91 % contract for indoor pest management.
- 61% contract for outdoor pest management.
- 7% have one or more district staff members certified as pesticide applicators.
- 55% apply pesticides outdoors on an as needed basis.
- 85% have pesticides applied indoors on a fixed schedule.
- 58% assess pest populations before and after implementing controls.

The last two responses do not seem to correspond. We were expecting that those school districts using traps and other methods to assess pest populations (as 58% indicated) would not apply pesticides unless a pest problem had been identified through monitoring. Therefore, we would expect that around 58% would also say they apply pesticides on an as needed basis. Responses, however, indicate that only 15% of the school districts apply chemicals on an as needed basis, while 85% apply chemicals on a fixed schedule unrelated to the pest assessment process.

There were several signs of improvement with regard to safe pest management practices:

- 33% responded that you are familiar with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept.
- 86% use less-toxic alternatives to pesticides, including glue boards, rodent traps, bait stations, etc.
- 86% of indoor pesticide applications are done after school hours.
- The most frequent day for applications is Friday, leading into the weekend.

Some of the areas where we hope to see improvement in the future, as we continue to promote IPM in Missouri schools, are:

- Only 12 school districts (5%) have a pesticide use policy.
- Only 13% are posting areas to be treated before the application.
- Only 10% post the treated area after application.
- Only 5 % have a policy for notifying parents of pesticide applications.

For more information about the survey and the IPM initiative contact the Missouri Center for Safe Schools (816-235-5656) or Judy Grundler at the Missouri Department of Agriculture (573-526-0837).

## NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

National Missing Children's Day is May 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to the National Missing and Exploited Children website: <http://www.missingkids.com>

## CONCUSSION TOOL KIT FOR COACHES

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) made available the Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports tool kit on their website, [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches\\_Tool\\_Kit.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches_Tool_Kit.htm).

## SAFETY COORDINATOR CONCERNS

Safety Coordinators repeatedly expressed the following concerns during the Advanced Training offered this school year:

- Expanding Role of the Safety Coordinator

- More staffing needed
- \$
- Emergency Plans and Communication
  - Use and security of the Intranet
  - Communications during lockdown
  - Procedures when caught outside during a lockdown
  - Windows in Classroom doors
  - Procedures for intervening in gun incidents (administrators shot in Tennessee)
  - Whole campus drills
  - Reunification
  - Bus emergencies
  - Chemical spills
  - Impact of staff transition on emergency preparedness
  - Incident Command System with small districts
- Bullying
  - Transient students
  - Special needs students
  - Female aggression
- Access Control
  - Movement between buildings
  - Becoming a closed campus
  - Surveillance cameras
  - Key control
  - Monitored security systems
- Internet Safety
- Safety for the special needs population
  - Emergency considerations
  - Bullying targets

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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