

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

May 2007

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

Threats are now a fact of life for schools. Schools around the State and across the country have experienced a rash of school threats. The threats have been in a variety of forms: telephone, written, e-mails, etc. Most often the threats are just that. However, in this day and age, all threats must be taken seriously. To assist schools with assessing threats the Secret Service published the document Threat Assessment in Schools: A guide to managing threatening situations and to creating safe school climates (July 2004). The guide sets forth a process for identifying, assessing, and managing students who may pose a threat to schools. The guide can be found on the U.S Department of Education website.

Also, Threat Assessment Procedures can be viewed on the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website. Click on Downloads, scroll to building and district Emergency Management Plans. The procedures were prepared by utilizing the Secret Service Threat Assessment in Schools Guide and the School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective, FBI Academy.

On a more positive note, I want to recognize three MCSS Advisory Board Members who are departing from the Board this year. They are Marge Gibson, Superintendent NE Randolph; Dennis Lewis, Director of School Safety Springfield School District; and Colonel Charles McCrary, Director of School Safety St. Louis School District. Their time, effort and service have been greatly appreciated. Best

wishes in their future endeavors.

Glenn Berry

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## SAFETY COORDINATOR SURVEY

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.

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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 July 17-18 and August 8-9, 2007. The location for July 17-18 is the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management, 14847 Ladue Bluffs Crossing Drive in West St. Louis County. The location for the August 8-9 training, being presented by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, is the Walnut Room at the West Plains Civic Center, West Plains.

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. So far 20 have already signed up for the St. Louis training and only 3 for West Plains. Call (573) 526-9121 if you have questions.

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### **FREE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR SCHOOLS**

A free, web-based school emergency planning tool will be available to all Missouri schools this summer. The Emergency Response Information Plan (ERIP) is being fully funded by Homeland Security for at least 4 years. This web-based, multi-hazard planning tool expands upon the public health planning tool fielded by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services during School Year 2005-06. Schools registered for the health planning tool will automatically be rolled into the new multi-hazard planning tool.

The completion of ERIP worksheets on-line guides the development of a comprehensive multi-hazard emergency operations plan. Also included in ERIP are incident action plan templates for response to each type of hazard. Emergency responders will have access to school ERIP plans on line using the Missouri Emergency Resource Information System. ([www.dps.mo.gov/HomelandSecurity/MERIS/MERIS.htm](http://www.dps.mo.gov/HomelandSecurity/MERIS/MERIS.htm))

There are several advantages for the school district that uses this system for maintaining their emergency management plans:

1. Subject matter experts at the national and state levels will provide recommended updates electronically to all registered schools/districts.
2. As in the school board policy systems,

the school/district has the authority to either accept the recommended change or reject it.

3. ERIP provides a mechanism for schools to ask questions, raise concerns, and provide input to state-level subject matter experts.
4. There will be on-line training modules for each of the emergency response teams of the multi-hazard emergency operations plan. Individual staff members can log on and complete their assigned training. School administrators can see who has completed each course and when.

While it is mandated that schools have emergency plans, at this time there is not a mandate that those plans be prepared and maintained on ERIP.

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### **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT DVD/CD**

DESE is distributing to each school district a DVD/CD on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The DVD was produced under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Missouri Department of Agriculture, DESE, the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, and other agencies collaborated to assemble the materials.

Any questions you may have concerning the implementation of IPM practices in Missouri schools can be referred to the Missouri Center for Safe Schools at 816-235-5656 or the Missouri Department of Agriculture at 573-526-0837.

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## HAZARD COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

One of the weaknesses uncovered during most of the safety reviews conducted by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools is the lack of a written hazard communications plan (29CFR1910) containing the following information:

1. The identity of the person responsible for implementing the plan
2. The procedures for acquiring, maintaining and providing access to material safety data sheets
3. An updated chemical inventory list
4. Provision for employee training on the plan
5. Labeling requirements

The USEPA publication *Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool* (2005) advises that all chemicals should be purchased in quantities that will be consumed during the current school year. Many schools, however, have large inventories of chemicals that are not utilized in the current curriculum or are excess to the quantity needed. Some of these chemicals have passed the expiration date.

It is the responsibility of the school district as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator to ensure proper treatment and disposal of these hazardous wastes. This needs to be kept up with each year. School districts can use the state hazardous material disposal contract to accomplish the removal at school district expense. To locate the state contract and the list of contractors go to <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 stateside contracts”). Then in line #2 (“Search for Keyword”) enter “hazardous.” Review the “Hazardous Substance Waste Disposal Services”

contract.

It is important for school districts to keep up with this yearly since accumulating more than 220 pounds of waste material will take the school district out of the “conditionally exempt small quantity generator” status. That results in paperwork and fees.

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools continues to collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies to find ways to assist school districts by reducing the cost of hazardous material disposal. Do not wait on that assistance. Act now to dispose of the chemicals that create the greatest liability for you. Check your inventory against the list entitled “Substances with Greater Hazardous Nature than Educational Utility” (which includes mercury) in Appendix C of the NIOSH School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-107>.

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## USDOE GRANT

The FY2007 Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Discretionary Grant Program (formerly known as the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Discretionary Grant Program) was announced last month, with application availability on April 6, 2007. The applications are due to USDOE by May 21, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.ercm.org>.

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## **RADON**

Our August 2006 newsletter reported that the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) had tested for radon in the schools of 33 counties. This school year the DHSS is doing follow up testing for nearly 50 schools that had elevated levels during the testing last school year. Furthermore, they positioned long term radon detectors in 16 state schools and an additional 122 public schools (35 school districts). A new round of testing will begin in August.

For more information about radon testing, contact Randy Maley (DHSS, 573-751-6102, [randy.maley@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:randy.maley@dhss.mo.gov)) or Barb Sassi (DHSS, 573-751-6090, [sassib@dhss.mo.gov](mailto:sassib@dhss.mo.gov)).

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## **NASSLEO CONFERENCE**

The National Association of School Safety and Law Enforcement Officers (NASSLEO) is holding its annual conference on June 24-27, 2007, in Colorado Springs, CO. For more information contact NASSLEO at [www.massleo.org](http://www.massleo.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:  
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