

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

May 2008

NOTE: This is the last edition of the *Missouri Safe Schools Newsletter* that will be printed and mailed. In order to cut down on expenses, future editions will only be available by e-mail or online. If you have been receiving a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail and would like to receive the future newsletters as an e-mail attachment, we would like to add you to our e-mail address book. Please send your e-mail address to thompsonrs@umkc.edu. We will continue to post the newsletter to our website, <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

What should a professional know about school safety when they visit your school?

This was a major topic discussed while I was presenting at the University Extension Conference. I learned many University Extension Nutritionists give numerous classroom presentations at schools each year. Some nutritionists had experienced safety situations during their classroom presentations. The reported situations ranged from being in the restroom when an intruder drill occurred to a nutritionist being left in charge of a classroom during a tornado drill (the supervising teacher had left the classroom to assist the teacher in the next room with a health emergency).

The nutritionists wanted to know what the school expectations were for them during various emergency drills (i.e. intruder, fire, tornado, earthquake, etc.).

What school safety information do you provide guest classroom presenters when they visit your school?

The nutritionists felt the most helpful thing the school could provide a guest classroom presenter would be a basic safety emergency information folder, similar to the ones given to substitute teachers.

This may be something that needs to be considered for many different professionals visiting school.

As the school year winds down, I wish each of you a safe and successful graduation and closing of the school year. May each of you have a relaxing summer.

As Always, Safety First!

Glenn Berry

REDUCING BULLYING THROUGH COLLABORATION

In April, the Olweus Training of Trainers was held in Kansas City to prepare the first cadre of trainers. These trainers will support approximately 35 schools during program implementation which will begin in August of 2008. Schools who are concerned about bullying and are prepared to take action can apply for training assistance on the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website:

<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>

CHEMICAL CLEANUP

Don't Miss This Opportunity—The Missouri Department of Natural Resources announced on April 15 a one-time grant under which they will pay for the removal of chemicals from public and private K-12 school laboratories. Applications must be submitted to DNR by May 16. The application form and all of the details are available at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/schoolcleanout.htm>.

TORNADO VIDEO

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools partnered with the State Emergency Management Agency to produce a DVD for distribution to school districts regarding tornado preparedness. The video provides information from the Caruthersville (April 2006) and St. James (September 2006) tornado experiences. One copy is being mailed by DESE to each school district and charter school. You may reproduce the DVD without permission for use within your schools.

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
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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), select "survey" from the toolbar at the top of the page, and complete the online survey questionnaire. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated and your comments are extremely helpful to the Center.

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

Basic Safety Coordinator Training continues to be on-line at the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website (<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>).

The regional Advanced Safety

Coordinator Training is tentatively scheduled as follows for School Year 2008-09:

Tue, Oct 21, South Central RPDC, Rolla
 Wed, Oct 22, St. Louis RPDC
 Thu, Oct 23, Southeast RPDC, Cape Girardeau
 Wed, Oct 29, Central RPDC, Warrensburg
 Thu, Oct 30, Southwest RPDC, Springfield
 Tue, Nov 11, Heart of MO RPDC, Columbia
 Wed, Nov 12, Northeast RPDC, Kirksville
 Tue, Dec 2, Kansas City RPDC
 Wed, Dec 3, Northwest RPDC, Maryville
 Thu, Jan 22, SW Ctr for Ed Exc, Webb City

Register for the Advanced Safety Coordinator Training through your Regional Professional Development Center. The topics that will be addressed during the full-day (6-hour) training for 2008-09 are:

- Safety review checklist update
- Safety coordinator survey results
- Bullying prevention on school buses and at school
- Cyber Safety
- Emergency management planning
- Earthquake information
- Safe schools legislation
- Chemical clean-up project
- Hot topics

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PILOT AT CENTRALIA R-VI

Centralia R-VI was selected as the pilot for a state project on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in schools to demonstrate that IPM practices can reduce the risks of pests and pesticides. The project, funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and coordinated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, will provide an IPM model that other school districts can use. It has already

resulted in several improvements in IPM implementation at Centralia:

- Pesticide applications have been reduced by 90% and the contractor is complying with the recommendations to use pesticides only as needed.
- The pest control contractor has increased pest monitoring, shared the monitoring documentation with the school district IPM coordinator, and is helping to educate the head custodians.
- The monitoring stations are labeled, placed correctly, and locations are mapped. The stations indicate that reduced clutter and improved sanitation have reduced observations of brown recluse spiders and roaches.
- The grounds crew is using irrigation, aeration and mowing height as the core of their landscape pest management program.
- Faculty and staff have been educated regarding IPM and their role.

For more information about the pilot project, contact Anastasia Becker at the Department of Agriculture (Anastasia.Becker@mda.mo.gov, 573-526-0837) or Darin Ford, Superintendent, Centralia R-VI (dford@catnet.gen.mo.us; 573-682-3561).

EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Missouri statute (RSMo 160.455) requires that school districts distribute to each student materials on earthquake safety as prepared by the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). 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).

At this time officials at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education are reviewing the SEMA brochure and determining how school district satisfaction of the statutory requirement will be assessed in future MSIP reviews. We will include information about their decision in our August newsletter.

NEW MADRID SEISMIC ZONE CONFERENCE

The conference is being hosted on August 12-14, 2008 at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. Co-hosts are the U.S. Geological Survey, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the State Emergency Management Agency. The goal of the conference is to provide a regional forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas and potential solutions involved with preparing for a significant central U.S. earthquake. For registration information go to <http://conference.mst.edu/newmadridconf/index.html>. The registration fee is \$100 by May 31 and \$125 after May 31.

EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools presents the following Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools

Webinar: Emergency Planning for Students with Disabilities and Special Needs. The webinar is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008 at noon central time. There is limited registration, so please register early at <http://rems.ed.gov/index.cfm?event=webinars>

Description: Emergency planning for schools requires planning for all students, including those with disabilities and special needs. These needs range from mobility, visual, hearing, emotional and intellectual impairments; to unique medical needs such as diabetes, seizure disorders, and others that require special assistance; or, even including hidden impairments and temporary impairments.

Lessons learned from recent disasters illuminate the critical steps schools need to take to protect their campuses. However, meeting the needs of students with disabilities and special needs in the event of an emergency does not have to be a daunting or costly task. It simply requires administrators and officials to take into account the entire school community, from students and staff members to visitors and volunteers, and then take the appropriate actions to ensure the safety of all.

This one-hour Webinar event will focus on three specific areas of emergency management planning for students with disabilities and special needs:

Part 1: "Actions to Take Before an Emergency Occurs," presented by Bob Spears, will discuss strategies for developing emergency plans for individuals with special needs and will emphasize the importance of working with the school community and involving parents in planning efforts.

Part 2: "Actions to Take During and After an Emergency," presented by Tom Gunnell will describe best practices for evacuating and sheltering-in-place students with special

needs and will emphasize working with community partners to respond immediately to student needs and provide developmentally-appropriate mental health services.

Part 3: "Case Study: Upper Darby School District," presented by Margie Bates, will describe one district's experience to effectively respond to students with special needs in an emergency or crisis, most notably students with Autism.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child care workers, teachers, principals, or other school officials are mandatory reporters for child abuse and neglect. It is the responsibility of each individual to report child abuse and neglect.

Missouri Rev. Statute 210.115 requires that a person who is responsible for the care of children and who has a reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect, or who observes a child being subjected to

conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect "shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the division." The statute goes on to say that a staff member of a school facility shall immediately notify the person in charge. "The person in charge or a designated agent shall then become responsible for immediately making or causing such report to be made to the division."

The child abuse and neglect hotline numbers are:

Missouri:	800-392-3738 573-751-3448
National:	800-4-A-CHILD

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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