

# MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

May 2009

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

This will be my last newsletter in the capacity of director of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. As my retirement looms ever closer, people continue to ask, "What will you be doing"? My plans for retirement are to provide day-care for my newly born granddaughter (first grandchild and yes, she is beautiful). Additionally, I plan to travel and remove some items off my "bucket list".

When I was hired as the Director, there were three goals established for me. The first goal was to expand the Center into a statewide school safety resource. It has taken a lot of "windshield" time and hours, but it has been very enjoyable. The second goal was for the Center to actively participate in the National school safety forum. Russ and I have presented at National meetings and conferences, as well as communicating regularly with U.S. Department of Education, Drug and Safe-Free schools officials on school safety issues. The third goal was for the Center to provide the most current school safety information and resources, while providing networking opportunities to school district safety coordinators.

Over the last eight years I have collaborated with many old friends, and I have developed many new friends throughout Missouri as a result of my work. I am confident that you will continue to ensure the safety of your students and staff.

My office telephone number (816-235-1042) and e-mail address will become inactive after June 30. You can reach me

through the Missouri Center for Safe Schools at 816-235-5656 or [thompsonrs@umkc.edu](mailto:thompsonrs@umkc.edu).

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

As Always, Safety First.

Glenn

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## CENTER FUNDING AND CONTINUED OPERATIONS

The state legislature cut much of the professional development funding from the DESE budget for School Year 2009-2010. That funding was the source of the operating budget for the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. Operations will continue beyond June 30, 2009, utilizing program income generated with the cost share paid by schools using our services over the past year. That money will sustain limited (one-person) operations at the UMKC Regional Professional Development Center, Union Station, Kansas City through December 2009, while alternate funding sources are sought.

Because of the loss of grant funding, the Center will need to adjust the cost share for future services. Listed below is the fee structure for School Year 2009-2010:

- Teacher/staff workshops and student presentations, MCSS charges \$100

- per hour (\$200 minimum)
- Safety reviews MCSS charges the district according to the following scale:
    - ✓ \$250 if there are 3 or fewer schools
    - ✓ \$400 if there are 4 to 7 schools
    - ✓ \$550 if there are 8 to 12 schools
    - ✓ \$700 if there are 13 to 20 schools
    - ✓ 21 or more schools fee will be determined by cost per building

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 School Year 09-10 are:

- Center changes
- Update of the Safety Review Checklist
- Safety Coordinator Survey Findings
- Excel Spreadsheet Tools
  - Safety Committee: Consolidating and Prioritizing Safety Findings
  - Violence Prevention Management
- ERIP
- Catastrophic Events
- Hot Topics

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## SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

Please complete Basic Safety Coordinator Training before attending one of our regional Advanced Safety Coordinator Training sessions. Basic Safety Coordinator Training continues to be on-line at the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website (<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>). Basic Safety Coordinator Training remains the same and you only need to complete that once. Advanced Safety Coordinator Training changes yearly and we would like to have you attend each year.

The regional Advanced Safety Coordinator Training is tentatively scheduled as follows for School Year 09-10:

- Wed, Oct 13, Northeast RPDC, Kirksville
- Tue, Oct 14, Heart of MO RPDC, Columbia
- Tue, Oct 15, South Central RPDC, Rolla
- Thu, Oct 21, Southeast RPDC, Cape Girardeau
- Wed, Oct 22, St. Louis RPDC
- Wed, Oct 27, Northwest RPDC, Maryville
- Tue, Oct 28, Kansas City RPDC
- Wed, Oct 29, Central RPDC, Warrensburg
- Thu, Dec 4, SW Ctr for Ed Exc, Webb City
- Thu, Dec 5, Southwest RPDC, Springfield

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## ANNUAL SAFETY COORDINATOR SURVEY RESULTS

The full results of the School Year 08-09 survey are available at <http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school>. There were 178 safety coordinators responding (compared with 175 who responded last school year). 81% have functioning safety committees, down from 85% the previous year.

The five most frequently mentioned safety issues dealt with in School Year 08-09 are the same as for the last school year, but in a different order. They are:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>08-09</u>	<u>07-08</u>
1.	Cell phones	77%	64%
2.	Bullying/Harassment	62%	79%
3.	Internet Safety	58%	54%
4.	Emergency Prep	54%	68%

5. Access Control 40% 53%

65% now use red/green signaling during emergency procedures (compared with 61% last year). 44% use buddy room procedures.

The drills conducted during the first month of the school year, along with the percentage of respondents that conduct each, were:

Type Drill	08-09	07-08
Fire	98%	99%
Tornado	83%	85%
Intruder	62%	69%
Earthquake	45%	48%

### STORM HITS FAIR GROVE

Fair Grove R-X School District was hit by a damaging storm just before this publication was released. John Link, Superintendent, passes along the following advice based on his experience:

*Two things we did that I really feel made an incredible difference, were to have the Greene County Emergency Management team come through our building in the Fall to evaluate our safety routes and then to have our local Emergency Personnel do an active tornado drill with us this spring. Those two things and an early alert to our staff, as soon as they arrived at school, saved 1100 kids.*

*In an event such as this all the training and all the preparation goes out the door. You have to react and at times be creative. I would submit that everyone that responded to our disaster stayed calm and in control. This was especially beneficial when frantic parents began arriving to pick up there children.*

*My last suggestion is to develop a positive and personal relationship with all of your local, district and state emergency personnel. These people will be you biggest support and their response will be essential to a smooth transition.*

*John Link, Superintendent  
Fair Grove*

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### ERIP UPDATE

The ERIP program has undergone further refinements in the past few months. One of the strengths of this program is the ability to modify, adapt, and add features to the overall package as needed.

Jenny Wiley of Mental Health, Russ Thompson of Center for Safe Schools, and Brad Spicer of Safeplans worked very hard to complete the Mental Health Annex to the program. We believe this annex addition will prove to be very useful for our school partners. In addition, the training videos available on the ERIP website have been improved. We encourage interested persons to go to the site (<http://erip.dps.mo.gov>) and check out what is available.

As many of you know, there is a Higher Education ERIP product as well. The Higher Ed Workgroup recently appointed a subcommittee, directed to take a new look at the existing program to determine what changes/modifications might be beneficial. This subcommittee will be holding Con-Ops meetings, using subject matter experts to redefine the program to better fit the needs of the Higher Ed community.

There is a new ERIP program being developed at this time as well. The Faith-Based community nationwide has experienced a number of high-profile violent incidents in the past few months. A number

of requests have indicated the need for a model program to assist these organizations. The current draft of this short program is now available for review and comment on the Missouri Office of Homeland Security website

(<http://www.dps.mo.gov/HomelandSecurity/>).

We encourage interested individuals to check out this newest version of ERIP and give us your comments.

We will continue developing the ERIP tools, in order to assist those persons responsible for the safety of others within our community.

O. J. Stone  
MO Office of Homeland Security  
oj.stone@dps.mo.gov.

## **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 some seats remaining. Apply on line at <http://training.dps.mo.gov>. Those who reside more than 50 miles from Kansas City may request lodging.

## **DHS APPROVED TRAINING MATERIALS**

You may have noticed that some commercial training programs include in their advertisements: "Approved by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)." DHS has a process for reviewing

and approving vendor training courses. Missouri homeland security money, with certain exceptions, can only be expended on course material approved by DHS. The Active Shooter classes scheduled by the State Emergency Management Agency throughout Missouri, for instance, had to go through the DHS approval process. It takes upward of 6 months for the vendor to get the DHS approval. Having the course approved, does not mean that DHS will pay for the training, or that a state will allow grant money to pay for it.

## **TORNADO DRILL IDEA**

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools continues to recommend that you run an occasional drill without power. Our thinking has been that power often goes out regionally during emergencies and many alarm systems go down with the power. Your staff and students need to be familiar with the back-up alarm system (megaphone, air horn, etc.).

The Golden City School District has another reason for running tornado drills without power. They learned from experience that the primary grade students get upset when the lights go out during actual storm conditions. By practicing their tornado drills without hallway lights, they have gotten the students used to dark hallways and teachers with flashlights.

Keep in mind, if shutting off the power becomes a routine part of your drills, students and staff may begin to think that you are supposed to shut power down in an emergency. Power is generally a good thing to have in an emergency and our primary mode of operation should be to use alarm systems and lighting.

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## H1N1

We were all better prepared to deal with H1N1 (Swine) flu because of our work responding to the H5N1 (Bird) flu concerns. The Missouri Center for Safe Schools posted to our website a paper on pandemic preparedness for schools, written by Eddie Hedrick, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The paper is located in the emergency management section (the “downloads” sub-page) of the website (<http://education.umkc.edu>).

Each school should have a pandemic plan as part of the multi-hazard emergency operations plan. The example plans provided by the Missouri Center for Safe Schools have two appendices on pandemic preparedness [Appendix 5 (Pandemic Influenza) to Annex C (Public Information); Appendix 9 (Pandemic Influenza Checklist) to Annex G (Mental Health)].

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## 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.

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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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