Comprehensive School Safety Plans & Site Vulnerability Assessments: An Overview

School Shield Inc. Presenter Info

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Training Qualifications

Presentation Objectives

- Understand The Basics Of & Need For A Yearly School Site Vulnerability Assessment.
- Understand The Basics Of & Need To Conduct Regular School-Wide Safety Training For Staff & Students.

State & Federal Requirements

State of California Requirements

- California - CA Education Code Sections 32280 - 32289 Requires ALL Public Schools To Have School Safety Plans Containing:
  - Child Abuse Reporting Procedures
  - Disaster Procedures, Routine & Emergency, Including Adaptations For Pupils With Disabilities
  - Comprehensive Earthquake Emergency Procedures That Include:
    - A School Building Disaster Plan
    - A Drop Procedure & Date/Time Procedures Held
    - Protective Measures To Be Taken Before/During/After Earthquake
    - A Program to Ensure Students & Staff Are Aware of & Trained In Procedures
  - Procedures To Allow Public Agencies To Use School Grounds In A Declared Emergency
  - Policies & Procedures For Suspension & Expulsion

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State of California Requirements

- California - CA Education Code Sections 32280 - 32289 Requires ALL Public Schools To Have School Safety Plans Containing:
  - Procedures To Notify Teachers Of Dangerous Students
  - Discrimination & Harassment Policies
  - Provisions Of A School-Wide Dress Code
  - Procedures For Safe Ingress & Egress Of Students, Staff & Parents
  - Procedures That Create A Safe & Orderly Environment Conducive To Learning
  - Procedures Outlining Visitor Access To The School
  - Rules & Procedures For School Discipline
  - A Comprehensive Crisis Response Plan
  - Hate Crime Reporting Procedures

State of California Requirements

- California - Additional School Safety Plan Requirements Include:

  The School Safety Plan may include clear guidelines for the roles & responsibilities of mental health professionals, intervention professionals, school counselors, school resource officers and police officers on campus.

  The School Safety Plan may include procedures for responding to the release of a pesticide or toxic substance within ¼ mile of the school.

State of California Requirements

- California - The School Safety Plan should be authored by a Safe School Committee and should be comprised of, but not limited to, the following individuals:

  - School Administrators
  - Parents & Students (If Age-Appropriate)
  - Teachers / School Staff
  - EMS Personnel
  - Other Qualified Professionals
State of California Requirements

- **California - Reporting Guidelines For the California School Safety Plan:**
  - The School Safety Plan should include verification that the plan was evaluated at least once a year and must be revised by March 1st of every year.
  - The School Safety Plan should include documentation that the plan was submitted for approval. Evidence of approval at the district or county level should be included.

SEMS & ICS Requirements

- Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is a nationally recognized emergency operations plan that is adapted for large critical incidents where multi-agency response is required.
- All schools nationwide are mandated to use SEMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) as the organizing structure for their Crisis Response Plan.

SEMS & ICS Requirements

- The Rule - Local Education Agencies (LEA’s) shall use SEMS/ICS to coordinate multiple jurisdiction or multiple agency emergency and disaster operations in order to be eligible for any funding of response-related personnel costs under disaster assistance programs.

Is your school fully integrated with SEMS/ICS?

SEMS & ICS Regulations

The Disconnect With California’s School Safety Plan Requirements:

Plan requirements do not focus on the Four Phases of Emergency Management (Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery).

If California Schools do not appropriately adopt the Four Phases of Emergency Management & ICS Principles, they could miss out on valuable Federal Funding in the event of a disaster.

Federal Safe School Regulations

Federal - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the federal authority regarding Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools.

FEMA provides clear, concise multi-hazard emergency response policies, protocols and training for Local Education Agencies (LEA’s).

FEMA provides clear guidelines as it relates to Emergency Response & Recovery. Two (2) areas not adequately addressed in CA’s requirements:

**Federal Safe School Regulations**

- **FEMA** - A detailed, three-part plan including:
  
  **The Basic Plan**
  
  - Purpose, Scope, Situation Overview & Assumptions
  - Concept of Operations (CONOPS)
  - Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities (ICS)
  - Direction, Control & Coordination
  - Communications
  - Administration, Finance & Logistics
  - Plan Development & Maintenance
  - Authorities & References

**Incident Command System (ICS) Structure For Schools**

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Federal Safe School Regulations

- FEMA - A detailed, three-part plan including:
  
  **Functional Annexes**
  - Address All Hazard Critical Operations Functions:
    - Response Procedures
    - Continuity of Operations
    - Recovery Procedures
  - Functional Annexes May Include:
    - Lockdown Policies & Procedures
    - Reunification Policies & Procedures
    - Academic, Physical & Psychological Recovery Procedures

- FEMA - A detailed, three-part plan including:
  
  **Hazard-Specific Annexes**
  - Address specific hazards not previously addressed and that may be unique to a specific school location as is determined by a thorough Vulnerability Assessment (VA) by qualified professionals.
    - Pandemic Flu
    - Intruder / Active Shooter
    - Chemical Spill (Nearby Chemical Plant?)
    - Downed Plane (Nearby Airport?)
    - Terrorism / Biological Incident

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- **NIMS / ICS Mandates:**
  - NIMS requires all levels of government to:
    - Prepare for and use ICS for all domestic responses.
    - Adopt ICS as a condition of receiving Federal Preparedness Funding.
  - This requirement also applies to institutions (including the United States Department of Education Emergency Management for Higher Education (EMHE) Grant).

Vulnerability Assessments:
Why Your School Needs One!
Vulnerability Assessments - The Key To Safety


• Vulnerability Assessments should be conducted by qualified professionals and updated yearly to account for risk and vulnerability improvements or deficiencies.

Vulnerability Assessments - The Key To Safety

• The Vulnerability Assessment should include a detailed analysis of the school site location along with the surrounding neighborhood.

• Neighborhood physical (proximity to airports, chemical plants or banks and natural disaster concerns) and social (high crime areas) components play a pivotal role in properly assessing the school’s risk and vulnerability factors.

**Vulnerability Assessments - The Key To Safety**

- The Vulnerability Assessment should be conducted by professionals in partnership with school leadership, local police, fire, EMS and government officials to ensure that risks and vulnerabilities are appropriately addressed and that a unified response will occur in the event of a site-based, local or regional emergency.

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

CPTED is a multi-disciplinary, four-strategy approach to deterring criminal behavior and supporting a safe school environment. CPTED Principles should be used in conducting Vulnerability Assessments:

1. Natural Surveillance
2. Territorial Reinforcement
3. Natural Access Control
4. Target Hardening

**Impact of Vulnerability Assessment**

Positive Culture & Climate = Less Likelihood of Violence

- Welcoming
- Connectedness
- Respect
- Cooperation
- Safe

**Train, Train & Train Again!**

School Safety Training – Not An Option!

- Proper & consistent training will ensure that school staff will respond appropriately in an emergency.
  
  Ask Antoinette Tuff of Discovery Learning Academy in Atlanta, GA

- Make sure staff know their respective roles in the ICS Command Structure and are prepared to respond in an emergency.
School Safety Training - Not An Option!

What you can do:
- Ensure Your School Safety Plan Meets FEMA Standards
- Integrate the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Define & Train on Response Protocols and Procedures
- Address the Needs of Persons with Disabilities
- Develop Communication Procedures and Templates
- Develop Reunification Procedures
- Practice Tabletops, Drills, and Full-Scale Exercises

Summary:

What Does This Mean For California Charter Schools?

Summarizing California Charter School Safety Needs

- Should a local or regional disaster occur, California Charter Schools must be prepared to have a Unified Command and Response based on the Incident Command System (ICS) that will seamlessly manage the Response & Recovery Phases of the school Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Summarizing California Charter School Safety Needs

- Per California Government Code Section 3100, Public School Employees can be declared Disaster Service Workers in the event of a large-scale emergency and may be declared legally responsible (in loco parentis) for their students. Therefore, full compliance with ICS protocols is critical and highly recommended.

- California Charter Schools should have an organizational Comprehensive School Safety Plan that proactively addresses general policies & procedures.

[Image]

Summarizing California Charter School Safety Needs

- School Shield highly recommends that Charter School Site Administrators update their respective School Safety Plans to include FEMA Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning For Schools protocols (NIMS/ICS) as was outlined in this presentation to address organizational and site-specific concerns.

  Compliance is key for Government Code Section 3100 (disaster service workers / in loco parentis) requirements and obligations.

[Image]

Summarizing California Charter School Safety Needs

- School Shield highly recommends that Charter School Site Administrators work collaboratively with local Police, Fire, EMS and Other Qualified Professionals to conduct a yearly comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment that addresses concerns that should be included in the School Safety Plan.

  This Vulnerability Assessment should be reviewed, implemented and updated yearly.

  This Vulnerability Assessment should only be disseminated to school leaders to minimize the publication of site weaknesses.

  A comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment may help schools forge a better relationship with their insurance providers.

[Image]
School Shield’s Value To California Charter Schools

- School Shield is currently working with numerous public schools across the country in assisting them with School Safety Plan creation & revisions and also in conducting Risk & Vulnerability Assessments.

- School Shield employs United States Military Veterans, Police Detectives and Former Educators with significant experience conducting Risk & Vulnerability Assessments for public & private schools.

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School Shield’s Value To California Charter Schools

- School Shield is able to assist California Charter Schools with the following:
  - School Safety Plan Review & Implementation (State & FEMA Complaint)
  - Conducting Risk & Vulnerability Assessments Of Aspire Campuses
  - Liaison With Local Police, Fire, EMS & Government Officials
  - Providing Quality Feedback and Training Assistance, Including:
    - Table Top Scenarios, Drills & Exercises
    - Staff Training On Specific Topics (Safe School / Violence Prevention / ICS / Many More Options)
  - Relieve The Intense Burden of Overwhelming School Safety Tasks & Requirements To Allow Administrators To Focus On Site Administration, Student Achievement & Campus Culture

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Thank You For Your Selfless Service!

Thank you for your selfless service to the students you serve daily. You are making a positive difference in the lives of our nation’s youth. Keep serving and stay safe!

Please make sure to receive important school safety updates and a free copy of our “21 Expert Tips Keep Your Child Safe” e-book by entering your email address on our website: