

OSC 12
Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

WELL AT HOME. SAFE AT WORK.

403 School Emergency Planning: Table Top Exercise

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Wednesday, March 28, 11 a.m. to Noon

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

School Emergency Crisis Management: Table Top Exercises

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Table Top Objectives

- Demonstrate the activation and use of the Incident Command System.
- Identify additional mitigation and preparedness needs.
- Provide input for continued emergency operations planning.

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School Shooting Scenario

2923.161 Improperly discharging firearm at or into a habitation, in a school safety zone or with intent to cause harm or panic to persons in a school building or at a school function.

(A) No person, without privilege to do so, shall knowingly do any of the following:

- (1) Discharge a firearm at or into an occupied structure that is a permanent or temporary habitation of any individual;
- (2) Discharge a firearm at, in, or into a school safety zone;
- (3) Discharge a firearm within one thousand feet of any school building or of the boundaries of any school premises, with the intent to do any of the following:
 - (a) Cause physical harm to another who is in the school, in the school building, or at a function or activity associated with the school;
 - (b) Cause panic or fear of physical harm to another who is in the school, in the school building, or at a function or activity associated with the school;
 - (c) Cause the evacuation of the school, the school building, or a function or activity associated with the school.

(B) This section does not apply to any officer, agent, or employee of this or any other state or the United States, or to any law enforcement officer, who discharges the firearm while acting within the scope of the officer's, agent's, or employee's duties.

(C) Whoever violates this section is guilty of improperly discharging a firearm at or into a habitation, in a school safety zone, or with the intent to cause harm or panic to persons in a school, in a school building, or at a school function or the evacuation of a school function, a felony of the second degree.

(D) As used in this section, "occupied structure" has the same meaning as in section 2909.01 of the Revised Code.

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School Shooting Scenario

West Elementary is in a small town, residential setting. It contains 597 students in grades 6-8. It is part of a public school district that includes 11 schools and serves approximately 5,500 students.

Today starts out as a typical Friday in March until at 7:00 am you hear a loud commotion and a student runs up to you to tell you a student has been shot.



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School Shooting Scenario

- What should the school principal be doing at this point?
- What should teachers be doing at this point?
- What are the evacuation routes, and the alternative evacuation routes?



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School Shooting Scenario



- Draw your initial emergency organization, including personnel assigned to each position (by title)
- Where will you establish your Command Post for this incident?
- After establishing command, what will you do first? Why?
- What is your first concern in this situation?
- For what contingencies must you plan?



School Shooting Scenario

- Has 9-1-1 been called? Who telephoned? What information should you have in order to report the emergency?
- Should an evacuation be ordered?
- Should a lockdown be ordered?
- Should a shelter-in-place be ordered?
- Who should be notified of the event and situation?
- Have the streets been closed off to allow emergency vehicles to enter? How was this done?




School Shooting Scenario

The shooter has fled the scene. Emergency response personnel including police have arrived. Crowd has gathered outside including media.



- What information will you provide to the incoming Incident Commander (the senior officer) during your change-of-command briefing?
- What will you do to help the teachers who have requested assistance?
- How will you work with the police throughout the remainder of the incident?
- Will you allow arriving parents to pick up their children? If yes, where will your parent/student reunification point be?
- What will you do to calm the hysterical students inside as well as parents and students and crowd outside?



School Shooting Scenario

- Worried parents gathered outside the school waiting for word on when they could pick up their children.
- "I'm worried about my kid. I'm wondering if she's okay. You wouldn't know something like this would happen. It's just scary. You don't think things like this would happen."
- "I'm just kind of a bucket of nerves. He is okay. He called me from someone else's phone. He was not around at the shooting. He was in another part of the building," said another parent.
- There was some initial confusion about where parents could pick up their children. Police kept the students at the school following the shooting so they could question witnesses. Parents arrived hoping to pick up their students, but had to wait. Many did not want their students to take the bus home. All schools were dismissed early.
- When the school's principal came out to guide the school's early dismissal, parents had questions.
- "I've been told by many, many students that go this school, and that go to the high school, that you were told this morning by three different children that the boy had a gun."

"It's all over Facebook."
"I have a child that goes here and I'm very concerned."

Among the Facebook comments posted by the suspect:
"Today is the day."
"You will hear about it."
"Don't use your mind, use your nine."



School Shooting Scenario

- What can you do to assist the police in calming the parents?
- How will you handle the media?
- Who makes the decision to release students?
- Where do you set-up the student release site, including the parent check-in?
- How do you communicate to the parents where they are to go to pick-up their children?
- For example, do you have a bullhorn or other way of communicating with students, staff and parents?
- How do you keep parents from simply walking away with the children?
- What do you do if staff want to leave?
- Do you make any requests of the police for their help? If "yes," list those requests.
- Briefly describe the types of problems you can envision with the parents once they arrived to pick up their children?
- How do you account for visitors, substitutes, or others who are not regular staff?




School Shooting Scenario

All students have been released to their parents, except for 8 students who no one has arrived to claim them.

Some students were showing obvious signs of emotional trauma.

Some of the staff are experiencing emotional trauma.



- How does the Counseling Support Team get activated?
- How long will it take the District to get trained personnel to respond?
- What is the plan for helping the students, parents and staff who are dealing with emotional trauma? Immediate, next day, and into the future.
- Has your team been adequately trained to handle the problems that may arise during the emergency?
- What will you do with the remaining 8 students?
- For what long-range processes must you plan?



Severe Weather Scenario

You are an elementary school principal. It is a busy Wednesday in March and you have observed dark skies outside and the wind kicking up. You check the school calendar for the day and find you have meetings scheduled for the afternoon, parent group committee meetings scheduled after school, soccer and baseball practices are scheduled after school as well.



At this point what do you do?

- Do you activate your severe weather plan?
- How do you handle scheduled afternoon and evening events?
- Transportation and dismissal?



Severe Weather Scenario

It is now 2pm and you learn that the NWS has issued a tornado watch. You look outside and see dark clouds.



At this point how do you proceed?

- Do you activate your severe weather plan at this point?
- How do you handle scheduled afternoon and evening events?
- Transportation and dismissal?



Severe Weather Scenario

It is now 2:15pm and a tornado warning is issued.

Your Tornado Safety Plan is fully implemented.

Your safety plan has analyzed your building and determined the best area for students are:

- Basements
- Rooms constructed of reinforced concrete, brick or block with no windows and a heavy concrete floor or roof system overhead
- Small interior rooms with no windows such as locker rooms and lavatories
- Hallways, away from doors and windows and not open to direction of tornado
- Any protected area away from doors and windows



Severe Weather Scenario

Worst place for students:

- Gymnasiums and auditoriums
- Rooms with large windows and doors
- Hallways exposed to direction of tornado
- Rooms with chimneys or beneath large, heavy roof-mounted equipment
- Mobile homes are not considered to be "buildings." They are considered to be dangerous in any severe wind storm and occupants are urged to take shelter in designated shelter areas.



Severe Weather Scenario

How do you address student release and transportation?



Severe Weather Scenario



Severe Weather Scenario

For our exercise the storm did not damage the building. But if the building had been totally destroyed without injury or loss of life. What are some of the items that must be now addressed by the school emergency management crisis plan?



FEMA Multi-hazard Emergency Planning For Schools



Thank you for attending!



Think Safety!



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