

NH School Emergency Preparedness Needs Assessment

Public Schools



January 25, 2013



Survey Background

Purpose:

To rapidly assess what schools felt they may need for resources, by using a survey tool.

Total Respondents: 239

- Child Care 32
- College/University 12
- Non-Public Schools 24
- **Public Schools 155**
- Unknown 16



Question 6

Do you need info on the following security areas:





Comments

- Verifying accuracy and appropriateness of current plans
- Proper screening of visitors when they buzz in to the building - what type of questions to ask.
- **How are buildings handling afterhours activities?**



Question 7

Do you need further assistance with RSA 189:64
“Emergency Response Plans” or He-C 4002.19
“Prevention and Management of Injuries and
Emergencies”?





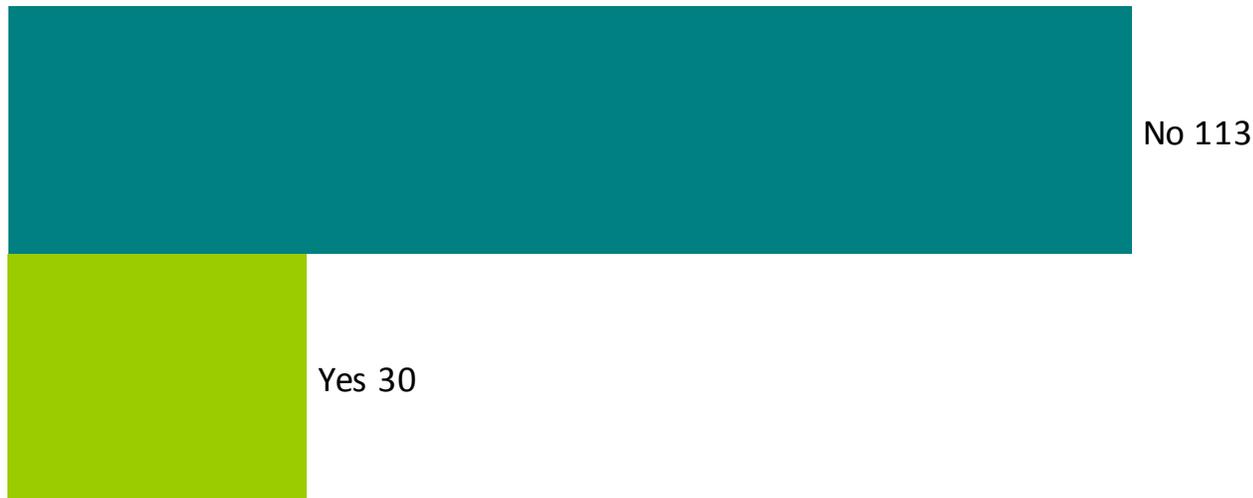
Comments

- We would like to be better informed about specific RSA'S that refer to school safety.
- We've had a plan in place for many years. I am curious about building assessment with regard to lockdown procedures because we have an old building, not designed with such things in mind.
- Would like DOE to review our Emergency Response Plan and would appreciate feedback
- We need support reviewing our current crisis management plan, refinement/redesign of our intruder response plan, and assistance in developing an appropriate plan for post-incident activity (communication to families, reconnecting students to parents, etc.).



Question 8

Do you need further assistance on how to incorporate the 7 response actions into your school emergency response plan?





Comments

- We have a unique situation and do not have any outdoor area of refuge closeby.
- More training means more successful emergency management. Finding the time to conduct training is always an issue. Things continue to be added to the plates of educators while nothing ever seems to come off the plate.



Question 9

Do you need assistance in understanding or applying the principles of the incident command system (ICS)





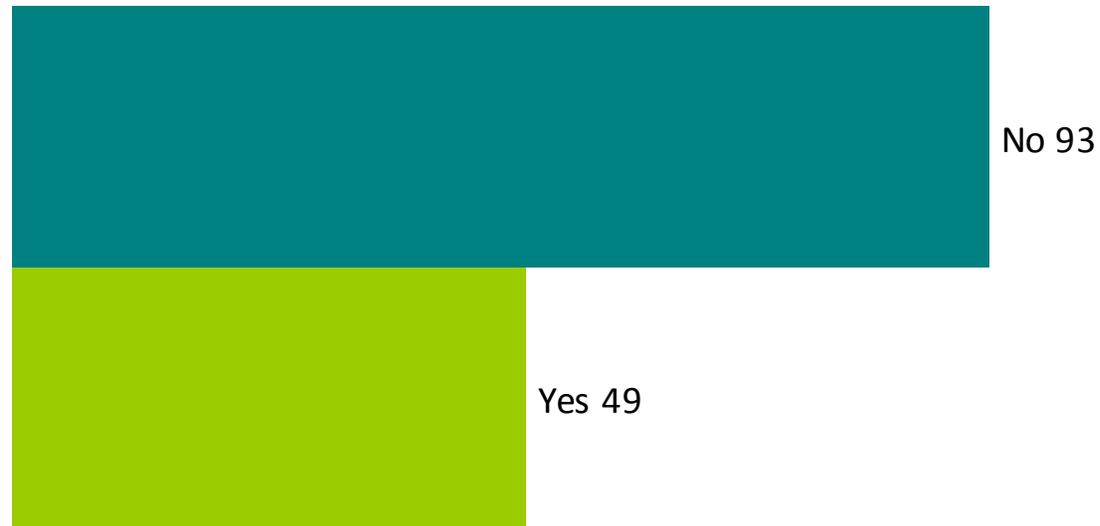
Comments

- A possible state wide conference for schools may be beneficial to discuss individual school district procedures to collectively gain information pertaining to possible improvements.
- Concerned to say that I'm not sure what ICS is/involves-may be in place/may not be in place



Question 10

Do you need assistance with communication strategies (i.e. handouts, notification, forums, websites, social media, etc) for parents before, during and after an incident





Comments

- A sharing of procedures would be helpful
- Database of sample crisis letters to draw from may be beneficial to draw from in the event of an emergency.
- A list of resources we could provide parents would be helpful
- Interested to hear about additional strategies.



Question 11

Do you need assistance in identifying State and Local resources that exist to respond to critical incidents impacting your school?





Comments

- No immediate need, but may want advice later as we move through our review process.
- Feel somewhat comfortable with Local assistance, unsure about State assistance.



Question 12

Do you need assistance on how to assess the needs of students, faculty and parents immediately following a critical incident?





Comments

- Additional material would be helpful
- We rely on guidance counselors and mental health personnel to assist in this, but like most districts, these resources are limited.
- Handouts/flyers and information provided was very useful and well received.



Question 13

Do you need assistance from a State agency to overcome any obstacles in implementing your school emergency response plan?





Comments

- **Funding**
- The physical structure of my building is difficult to evaluate in terms of safety.
- Finding an offsite place for our students and staff to go during an emergency



Question 14

Do you need assistance in the following areas of your school emergency response plan:



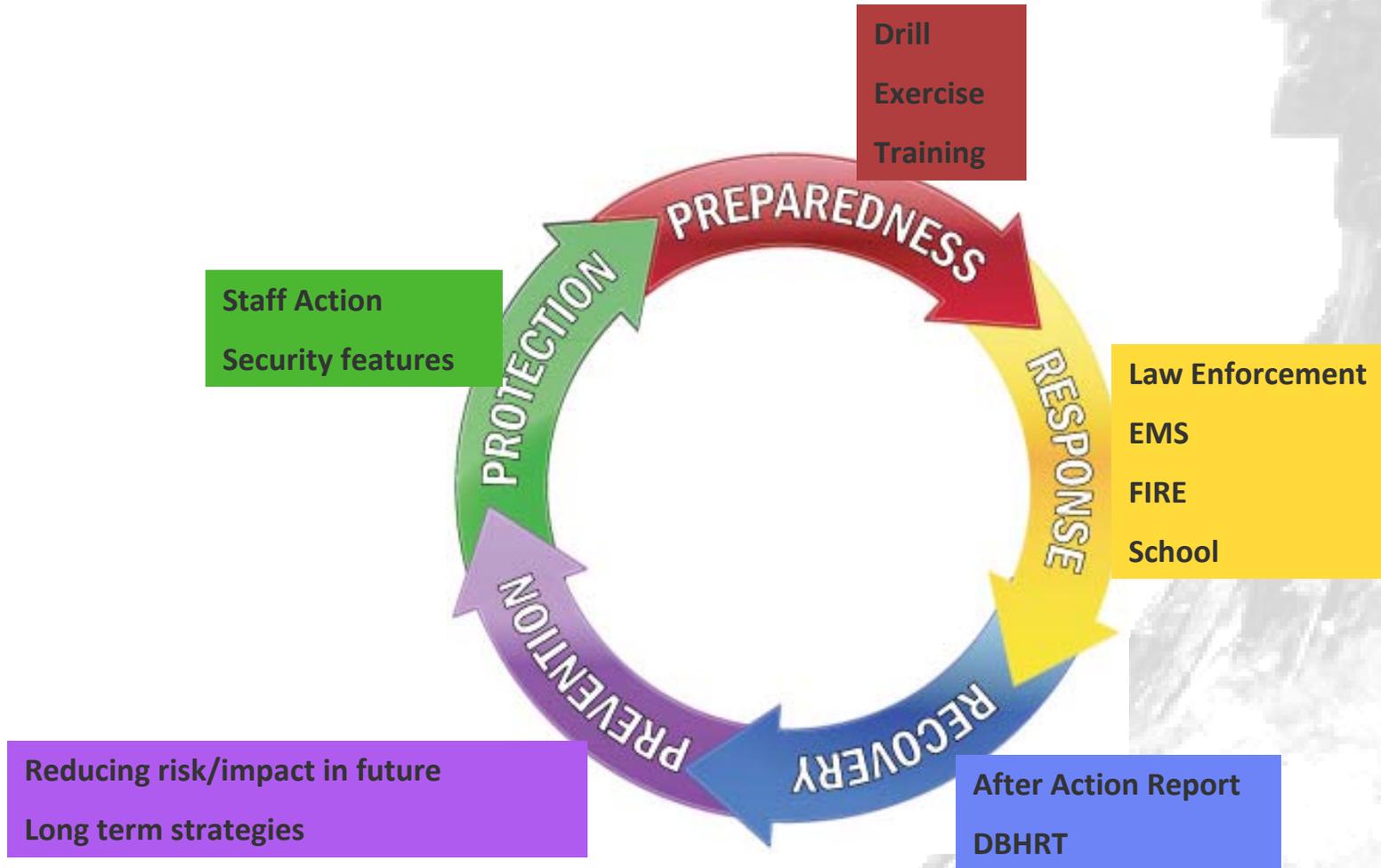


Comments

- **Additional training** would be helpful. Continuously review and update and practice.
- Feedback on existing plan would be welcome.



Emergency Management Approach to Safer Schools





Office of the State Fire Marshal



- Fire Marshal Bill Degnan
- Investigator Ron Anstey



Our Lady of Angels School

- CHICAGO
- DECEMBER, 1958
- TWO-STORY BUILDING
- 90 STUDENTS AND 3 NUNS DIED



Our Lady of Angels Classroom





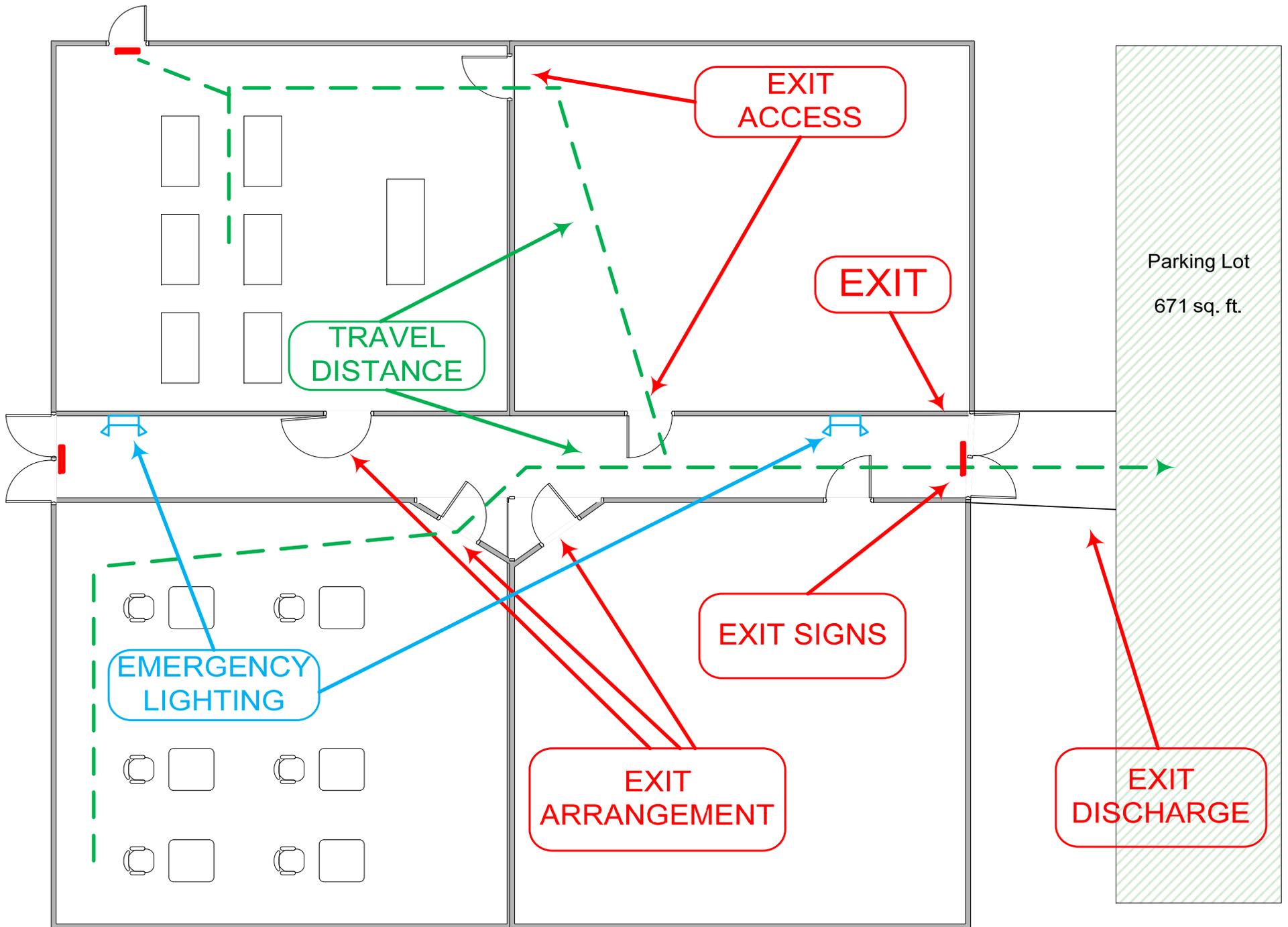
Columbine High School





Means of Egress

- Separation of Means of Egress. (7.1.3)
- Interior Finish in Exit Enclosures. (7.1.4)
- Means of Egress Reliability. (7.1.10)
- Furnishings/Decorations in Means of Egress (7.1.10.2)
- Capacity of Means of Egress. (15.2.2)
- Number of Exits. (15.2.4)
- Arrangement of Means of Egress. (15.2.5)
- Travel Distance to Exits. (15.2.6)
- Illumination of Means of Egress. (15.2.8)
- Emergency Lighting. (15.2.9)
- Marking of Means of Egress. (15.2.10)

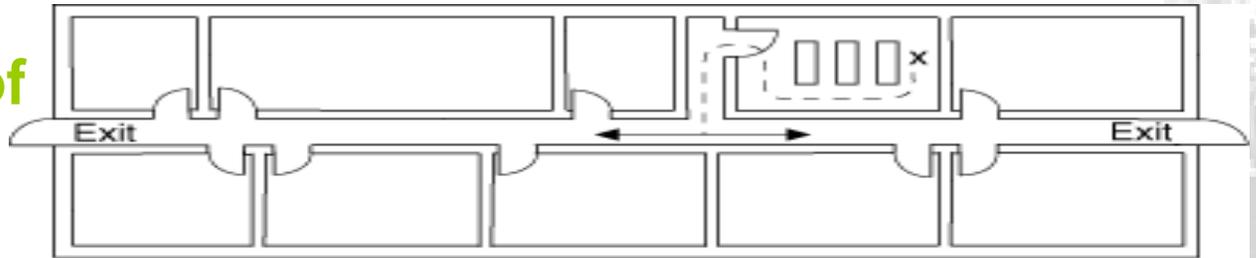




No exit doors shall be locked or chained
at any time to prevent exiting the
building. (7.2.1.5.11)

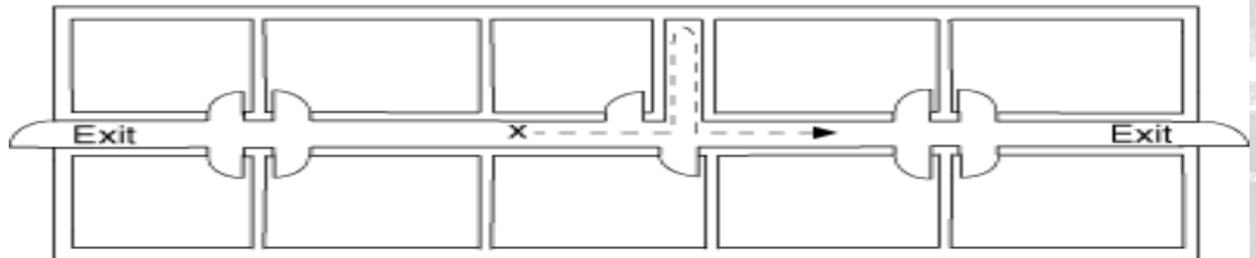


Common Path of Travel



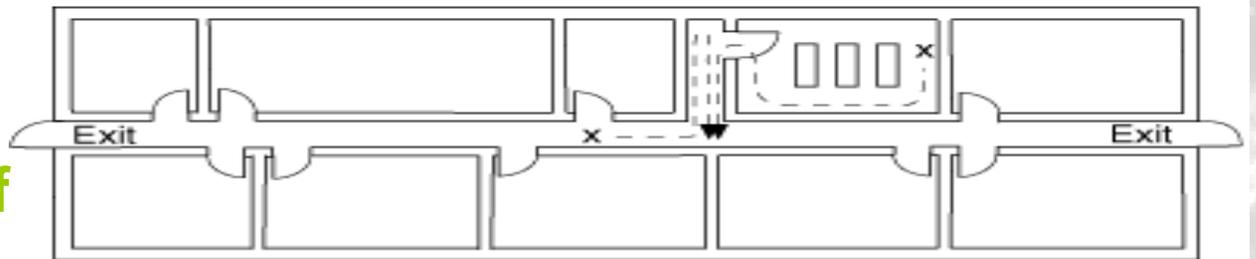
(a)

Dead-End Corridor



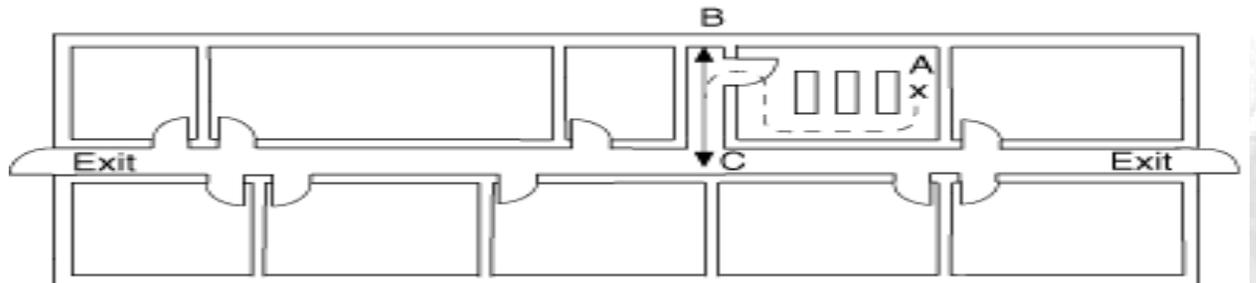
(b)

Dead-End Corridor & Common Path of Travel



(c)

Measurement of Common Path of Travel



(d)



Every room or space larger than 1000 ft² or with an occupant load of more than 50 persons shall comply with the following:

1. The room or space shall have a minimum of two exit access doors.
2. The doors required by shall provide access to separate exits. (15.2.5.4)

The average classroom is usually 30 ft. x 30 ft. (900 sq. ft.) requiring only one exit.



(15.2 Means of Egress)

- **Do all rooms occupied by students have an exit door leading directly to an exit access corridor?**



Exceptions: (15.2.5.5)

- Direct exit to the outside
- Through one intervening room. (Under certain circumstances).



State Police



- Lt. Kevin Duffy



- Local, County and State law enforcement has continuously trained in Response to an Active Shooter for at least ten years.
- Law enforcement agencies are “Trained” or “Partially Trained” in the tactics of Response to an Active Shooter.
- Expect an immediate response from law enforcement to stop the threat and limit additional victims.
- If a school community doesn’t have any local law enforcement in their jurisdiction, coverage will be afforded through the State or County.



Disaster Behavioral Health Team



- Paul Deignan

CRISIS ON CAMPUS





**“There cannot be a crisis next
week...
My schedule is already full.”**

-Henry Kissinger



Types of School Events

Probability of Event

- Student deaths
- Staff deaths
- Accidents
- Serious medical issues (students or staff)
- Violence in schools or community
- Suicides
- Natural disasters
- School shootings



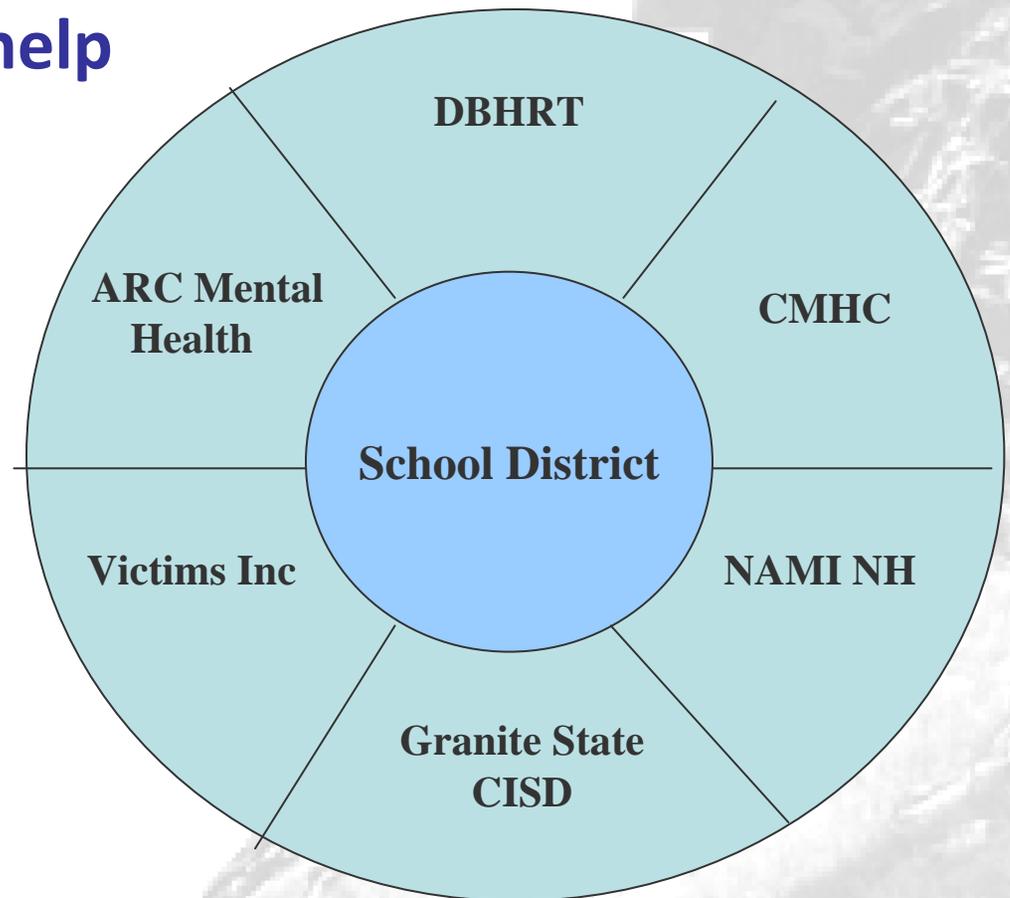
Critical Incident Management Cycle: Four Phases

- **Mitigation/Prevention: Physical plant, Programs**
- **Preparation/Readiness: Plan, Train, Exercise**
- **Response: Plan put into Action**
- **Recovery: Physical/Emotional Support & Reflection**
What worked? What needs to be changed?



Internal and External Resources

- Consider local mental health resources
- "Outside" vs. "Inside" help





School Superintendent Checklist:

- ✓ **Verify death(s) with Police**
- ✓ **Notify key district administrators**
- ✓ **Identify needed resources**
- ✓ **Appoint one media representative**
- ✓ **Provide support to survivor school(s)**
- ✓ **Set District policy for faculty, staff and student participation in memorial activities**
- ✓ **Maintain a leadership presence**



Considerations Immediately Following the Incident:

- **How the delivery of the news will happen in the school**
- **Develop statements, parent letters, announcements**
- **Assign a single media spokesperson to handle inquiries**
- **How to handle parental inquiries**
- **Identify areas for emotional support**
- **Conduct initial faculty meeting**



Administrators Need:

- **Information about the incident**
- **Information about the deceased**
- **System for contacting crisis resources**
- **Strategy for responding to media requests**
- **Support and self-care strategies**



Faculty Need:

- **Information about the incident**
- **Information about school's response plan**
- **Permission to grieve**
- **Preparation for the student's reactions**
- **Guidance in structuring school activities**
- **Involvement in the I.D. of high-risk students**
- **Info. about school & community resources**
- **Support and self-care strategies**



Students Need:

- **Information about the incident**
- **Permission to grieve/Place to grieve**
- **Outreach to students most affected by the incident**
- **Info about resources in the school & community**
- **Support and self-care strategies**



Parents Need:

- **Information about the incident**
- **Information about the school's response**
- **Preparation for children's reactions**
- **Information about community resources**
- **Support and self-care strategies**



**First we have the test
and
then we have the lesson**



CRISIS

Chinese – “wei ji”

Combines word for danger
and
the word for opportunity



After the Incident – After Action Review

- **Identify your role in responding to this incident**
- **What services were provided and to whom?**
- **What went right? What worked?**
- **What may have not worked? What could be improved?**
- **Did the School policies and procedures assist or impede the response and delivery of services?**
- **What did you learn from your participation in this event?**



Available Trainings

- **Responding to Critical Incidents in Schools – 3 hours**
- **Psychological First Aid – 6 hours**
- **Compassion Fatigue – 3 hours**
- **Suicide Postvention – 3 hours**
- **Critical Incident Stress Management – 2 days**
- **Emotional Freedom Techniques - 3 hours**



RESOURCES

- www.nctsnet.org
- www.redcross.org
- www.childgrief.org
- www.apa.org
- www.naminh.org
- www.nasponline.org
- www.ready.gov
- www.fema.gov/kids
- www.militarystudent.dod.mil/
- www.militarychild.org
- <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/>
- www.aap.org/sections/unifserv/deployment/index.htm



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator

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(603) 419-0074



- Gregg Champlin



**“No one person is an expert in
Emergency Preparedness...
Together WE are the experts!”**

- GBC



RSA 189:64

- Public and nonpublic schools required to have site specific Emergency Response Plans (July 2009)
- Based on and conform to ICS and NIMS
- Two of required Fire Evacuation drills used to practice other Response Actions
- Must cover Multiple Hazards
- Coordinated with local emergency officials & EOP
- Reviewed and updated at least annually
- NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management responsible for assisting schools



Child Care Rule

- Required to have Emergency Response Plans
- Based on the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Coordinated with Emergency Response Agencies
- Guidelines for critical tasks
 - Incident Commander
 - Child Care
 - Medical
 - Child-Parent Reunification
- Requires six (6) Response Actions
 - Evacuation (Building & Off-Site)
 - Lockdown
 - Secure Campus (Lockout)
 - Shelter-In-Place
 - Drop-Cover & Hold
 - Reverse Evacuation



Physical Security

Is Everyone's Responsibility!

- Lock all exterior doors
- Signage (NH law requires posting of property)
- Staff Identification (must be worn by all)
- Entrance through one door
 - Buzz in
 - Double doors (foyer) is best
- Proximity Readers (Swipe Cards)
 - Can be less expensive (in the long run) than re-keying
 - Monitors who enters when
 - Can facilitate entrance by First Responders
- Visitor Screening
 - Visitor Pass
 - Take car keys
 - Photos
 - Pedophiles and People with Restraining Orders
 - Watch for TAILGATING (Educate staff, students & parents)
 - Train Receptionist



Response Actions

- Lockdown
- Secure Campus
- Shelter-In-Place
- Scan
- Drop, cover, and hold
- Evacuation
 - Building
 - Off-Site
- Reverse evacuation
 - Go inside





OTHER RESPONSE ACTIONS

Schools may wish to implement “**Hazard Specific**” Response Actions.

For example if there is an “**Area of Refuge**” available a Tornado/Severe Wind response may be implemented after Tornado Warning is issued.





In conclusion.....

By utilizing the Incident Command System as their management tool and with the seven Response Actions in place and drilled, school personnel will be able to respond to any hazard.



Contact Info

Homeland Security & Emergency Management

603-271-2231

Office of the State Fire Marshal

603-223-4289

Disaster Behavioral Health

603-419-0074