



# The All-Hazards Approach to Preparedness In Kansas Schools

By

Kansas Center for Safe &  
Prepared Schools

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Date: JAN 29, 2013

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go to page 3



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**Purpose and Objectives  
For Today's Meeting**

- Review Safety & Preparedness Issues & Resources in Schools
- Discuss the EOP's and Building Emergency Response Plans
- Review the All-Hazards approach to school preparedness in Kansas Schools
- Answer questions from the Committee on school safety and preparedness in Kansas Schools



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**KC-SPS Problem Statement**

Every Kansas educational setting is vulnerable to threats, hazards and disasters that have the potential to disrupt normal school operations and cascade into a crisis/emergency situation.

Kansas schools are not uniformly prepared, resource equipped or trained to respond to these emergency situations.



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### KC-SPS Mission

- KC-SPS will provide leadership, training and resources that will sustain and improve the safe and prepared learning environments in Kansas Schools.
- KC-SPS will assist schools in the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from crisis incidents that impact their schools and communities.




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### KC-SPS Guiding Principles

- Regardless of current challenges, schools have a duty of care to students, staff and the community
- All schools can implement minimal cost items that improve safety and preparedness
- Advocate for children during times of crisis
- Focus on the positive connection between a safe & prepared school and academic success
- A school crisis is a community crisis and a community crisis is a school crisis
- Training, using the all-hazards approach, must be continuous due to staff turnover and changing realities
- Clearly state standards, expectations and best practices for school safety and preparedness
- School safety & preparedness is not just an educational responsibility
- Advocate for keeping school law enforcement, school health professionals and mental/emotional health professionals in schools




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### ★ KC-SPS Early Successes

- All Kansas School Districts are Members
- Annual State Safe & Prepared Schools Conference
- Regional Workshops
- Governor's Proclamation
- Concurrent Resolution
- Model School Emergency Operation Plans (EOP)
- KC-SPS Advisory Group
- 7 Kansas Teams (Ulysses, Atchison, Winfield, Leavenworth, Haysville, Manhattan & Topeka) have had EMI Training.
- Host to U.S. Dept of Ed. 'E.M. 101 for Schools'
- Vulnerability Assessments for Schools - 25 + Districts
- Invitation to be a working member of the Fusion Center
- Published articles in the *Journal of Business Continuity and Emergency Management* and *The National Association of School Nurses Magazine* by Dr. Hull




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## Expectations

- Society/Community - Schools are Safe
- Parents - Mary and Johnny will be safe in school
- Students - I will be safe in school
- Staff - School provides a safe/prepared learning environment
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responders - Schools and their staff are trained for emergencies
- Emergency Management - Schools have a comprehensive all-hazards plan for emergencies




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## House Concurrent Resolution #5018

The legislature strongly urges all public and private schools to create and update school crisis plans and to facilitate implementation of such plans by training personnel and conducting regular drills. Be it further resolved to deliver copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of Education and the chairperson of the State Board of Education.




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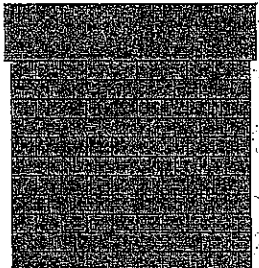
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## Challenges to School Preparedness

- Budgets/Finances
- Apathy & Naiveté
- Politics
- Staff turnover
- Lack of Regulation
- Sustainability




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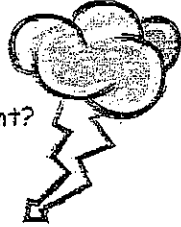
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### Who Owns the Disaster?

- Government?
- Local Community?
- Emergency Management?
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responders?
- Schools?
- Individuals?



IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE BECAUSE . . .




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### Phases of Emergency Management

**Mitigation (prevention)** - On going activities aimed at eliminating or reducing the risk of personal injury & loss of life, property damage or risk to the environment

**Preparedness (Planning)** - Actions that improve the speed and coordination of the response to the emergency

**Response** - Period of time shortly before, during and after a disaster when activities are conducted in order to save lives, minimize damage and protect the environment

**Recovery** - Period of time when the immediate threat to life & property has passed. This continues until the return to 'normal operations' is complete




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### What is an EOP?

An EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) is an overview of the School District's approach to emergency operations. It describes the School District, its emergency management response policy, procedures and assigned tasks. The primary audience for the EOP are the key Administrative Staff, the BOE (policy makers) and First Responders. This plan serves as the foundation for the operationally orientated building level plans.




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### Response Card - Lessons Learned

Participants were asked to write 3 things that they learned from the workshop on the front of a 3 X 5 card, and one question on the back. Below represents the most popular responses to what was learned.

Learned:	Responses:
• Need Community Involvement	56
• Need to Develop, Modify or update an EOP	54
• Like Resources made available	26
• Greater understanding of ICS/NIMS	21
• Need to practice drills and mix them up	18
• Need to train staff and teachers	15
• Importance of MOU's	14
• Determine "who" school team members are	13
• Communication with Parents about school expectations	10
• Need to get "Classroom Kits"	9
• Greater understanding of Terminology	8




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### Building Emergency Response Procedures (Building Plans)

The purpose of a Building Emergency Response Plan is to guide the duties and responsibilities of the building staff when responding to an emergency or crisis incident.

An emergency or crisis incident is an occurrence that requires actions to prevent or minimize the loss of life, damage to property or the environment.

These plans are designed for immediate response and are based upon the all-hazard approach to emergencies.




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### Crisis Management Action Outline (All-Hazards Approach)

- People Caused
- Natural disasters
- Physical Plant or Technological Failures




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### NIMS & ICS

- **NIMS - (National Incident Management System)**  
A comprehensive system that improves the response operations through the use of the incident command system & application of standardized emergency procedures and preparedness measures
- **ICS - (Incident Command System)** A standardized on scene emergency management system designed to provide an integrated organizational structure to the scene. ICS is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to all size incidents. ICS is designed to aid the management of resources during a crisis incident.




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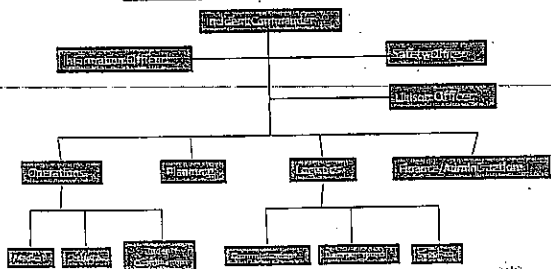
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### Incident Command System (ICS) In a School Setting




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### Crisis Kits

All Disasters are Local

- + Classroom Crisis Kit
  - \* Intended to be Grab & Go
  - \* Use with every drill
  - \* Helpful items to the classroom teacher & students
- + Building Crisis Kit
  - \* Intended to be used during school emergencies
  - \* Organized to help building administrative & support staff during emergencies
  - \* Contains contact information for school students & staff




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## Foundations for School All-Hazards Preparedness

- Formation of School Crisis Management Teams (Community, District & Building)
- Creation and implementation of the All-Hazard School Emergency Operations Plan (District, Building and Classroom levels)
- Vulnerability Assessments for Schools
- Standardization of Emergency Drills
- Implementing Building & Classroom Crisis Kits
- Training and Exercises
- Sustainability




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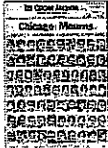
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## Drills and Skills

- Standardization of drills and skills
- Impact of drills - Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago
- Drills all schools can use:
  1. Severe weather
  2. Evacuation
  3. Lockdown
  4. Shelter in Place
  5. Reunification
  6. Bus evacuation




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KCSPS Survey Comparison Results 2009 vs 2011



Selected Question	Percent of Participants	
	2009	2011
Q1 - My school has an all-hazards crisis and emergency preparedness plan	48	54
Q2 - My school has a plan for emergency training for my school's crisis management team	47	53
Q3 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	57	59
Q4 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	41	50
Q5 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	57	73
Q6 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	53	72
Q7 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	54	58
Q8 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	52	75
Q9 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	58	72
Q10 - My school has a plan for emergency drills and exercises for my school's crisis management team	52	5

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School Safety and Preparedness

Our schools are the most valuable structures in our communities because they possess the most priceless treasures of our society. They should receive the constant attention and protection they deserve. School safety and preparedness should rise to the level of value we place on our children.\*

\*Adapted from an SRO article



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Table Top



As you are walking in from observing recess on this cold and windy fall day you hear off in the distance some rumbling noises that sounds like a collision. Once inside the building, the secretary hands you the phone. The Hazmat Officer from the local fire department is on the phone advising you of a train derailment approximately a mile away from the school. He informs you that you are in the downward wind plume and the cars are leaking a chemical. The initial information is the train tank cars are carrying chlorine gas.

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### EOP Training Schedule 2012-2013

#	Region	Date	Location	Attending Schools
1.	NE	10-25-12	Paola	Louisburg, Osawatomie and Paola
2.	NE	11-13-12	Lawrence	Perry-Lecompton, Baldwin City, Lawrence
3.	SW	11-27-12	Meade	Fowler, Meade, Ness City, Dodge, Liberal
4.	SC	11-29-12	Clearwater	Macksville, Burrton, Peabody-Burns
5.	SE	12-04-12	Greenbush	Uniontown, Frontenac, Neodesha, Parsons, Greenbush Service Center
6.	NC	12-11-12	Junction City	Junction City
7.	SC	1-08-13	Clearwater	Bethany Christian, Bethel Life, Derby, Haysville, Renwick, Cheney
8.	NE	1-10-13	Topeka	Pottowatomie EM, Rock Creek, N. Jackson Auburn-Wasburn, Mill Creek Valley, El Dorado
9.	SE	1-15-13	Olathe	Linn Co Fire, Spring Hill, De Soto, Emporia, Prairie View KS School for Deaf & Blind
10.	Metro	1-31-13	KCK	KCK, Turner, Barton CC + 3 Other Schools
11.	SE	2-5-13	Greenbush	6-7 SE Kansas Schools
12.	NW-SW	2-20&21	Scott City	6-12 NW/SW Kansas Schools

**TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS**

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN  
NATURAL DISASTERS**

<p><b>Earthquake</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sound alarms – provide notification</li> <li>2. Evacuate building or take protective positions</li> <li>3. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>4. Call Service Center with crisis information</li> <li>5. Call District Office</li> <li>6. Activate building crisis plan</li> </ol> <p><b>Fire</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sound alarms</li> <li>2. Evacuate building</li> <li>3. Call 911</li> <li>4. Take attendance at designated place</li> <li>5. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>6. Call Service Center with crisis information</li> <li>7. Call District Office</li> </ol> <p><b>Lightning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take cover inside the nearest safe structure.</li> <li>2. If outside and no shelter is available, immediately crouch into a ball position with feet on the ground.</li> <li>3. Stay away from trees or other tall isolated structures.</li> </ol> <p><b>Pandemic</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Check with local, county &amp; state health officials for latest info</li> <li>2. Stay home with flu like symptoms</li> <li>3. If in school - separate sick students and staff</li> <li>4. Emphasize hand hygiene &amp; respiratory etiquette</li> <li>5. Routinely clean areas that students &amp; staff touch</li> <li>6. Those with high risks seek early treatment</li> </ol> <p><b>Severe Weather and Floods</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm information</li> <li>2. Post observers as warranted</li> <li>3. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>4. Call 911 (if needed)</li> <li>5. Call Service Center with crisis information</li> <li>6. Call District Office</li> <li>7. Activate building crisis plan for severe weather</li> </ol> <p><b>Tornado</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sound alarms – provide notification</li> <li>2. Take protective positions</li> <li>3. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>4. Call 911 as needed</li> <li>5. Call Service Center with crisis information</li> <li>6. Call District Office</li> <li>7. Activate building crisis plan</li> </ol>	<p><b>Antirax Threats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Become aware of indicators of suspect letters and packages</li> <li>2. If unopened and not leaking a substance,             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 and report factual information</li> <li>• Call District Office</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. If opened and substance found (or leaking):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear the room and wait for emergency personnel to arrive</li> <li>• Place letter/contents in package and seal in a plastic bag</li> <li>• Wash hands immediately with soap and water</li> <li>• Call 911 and report factual information</li> <li>• Call District Office</li> <li>• Remain in the room and wait for emergency personnel to arrive</li> <li>• Shut down HVAC unit to impacted area</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Chemical/Hazardous Material Release</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess situation use MSDS (material data safety sheets)</li> <li>2. Call 911</li> <li>3. If inside, evacuate building. If release is outside, shelter in place</li> <li>4. Take attendance – account for all persons</li> <li>5. Call Service Center &amp; Call District Office</li> <li>6. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>7. Activate Shelter in Place Plan as needed</li> <li>8. Listen to district, local media or other information updates</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Cyber Attack</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In advance install reasonable defenses</li> <li>2. Identify the attack and its source (if possible)</li> <li>3. Contain damage and make backups</li> <li>4. Eradicate attack mechanisms from the system</li> <li>5. Put the impacted system(s) back into production</li> </ol> <p><b>Explosion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evacuate building – assess situation</li> <li>2. Call 911</li> <li>3. Call Service Center</li> <li>4. Call District Office</li> <li>5. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>6. Determine scope of crisis-take attendance</li> </ol> <p><b>Gas Leak</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evacuate building – assess situation</li> <li>2. Call 911</li> <li>3. Call gas company at _____</li> <li>4. Call Service Center</li> <li>5. Call District Office</li> <li>6. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>7. If needed after evacuation move students/staff to safe area</li> </ol> <p><b>Utility Outage (Electric, Water, Phones, Computer, etc)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess situation – check building to determine any damage</li> <li>2. Call Service Center</li> <li>3. Call utility provider</li> <li>4. Call District Office</li> <li>5. Locate and check utility shut off valves or switches</li> <li>6. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> </ol>	<p><b>Activity Trips (Bus Emergency)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess and confirm information – know precise location</li> <li>2. Use predetermined communication devices &amp; telephone numbers</li> <li>3. Notify Building Administration of situation</li> <li>4. Locate, refer to &amp; use crisis information and resources on hand</li> <li>5. Account for all persons on trip</li> <li>6. If bus emergency occurs follow bus evacuation procedures</li> </ol> <p><b>Assault</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm information &amp; report to Building Office</li> <li>2. Assess &amp; report status of victim</li> <li>3. Provide accurate information on assailant and their location</li> <li>4. Provide first aid as needed and/or Call 911 as needed</li> <li>5. Notify District Office</li> </ol> <p><b>Bomb Threats</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notify Building Administration/Notify District Office</li> <li>2. Call 911 and report the threat</li> <li>3. Complete the Bomb Threat Checklist</li> <li>4. Evaluate the validity of the threat. Is the threat credible?</li> <li>5. Building/area search without evacuation (overt/covert)</li> <li>6. Evacuate and search if deemed appropriate</li> <li>7. Upgrade if a suspicious package is discovered by search team</li> </ol> <p><b>Death of a student/staff</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm information</li> <li>2. Call District Office</li> <li>3. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>4. Notify staff</li> <li>5. Obtain personal data</li> <li>6. Secure personal items</li> </ol> <p><b>Disruptions/Intruder/Missing Child or Abduction</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess (confirm) situation/call 911 as needed</li> <li>2. Secure building/take attendance</li> <li>3. Call District Office</li> <li>4. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>5. Notify staff/use pre-arranged codes</li> <li>6. Notify parents</li> </ol> <p><b>Medical Emergencies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess situation - Determine if situation affects total school population, small group; or individual</li> <li>2. Determine if emergency medical personnel are required. If so, call 911 and District Office with crisis information</li> <li>3. Initiate CPR/First Aid/AED as needed</li> <li>4. Assemble Crisis Management Team</li> <li>5. Notify staff</li> <li>6. Determine status of students not affected</li> </ol> <p><b>Poisoning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call 911</li> <li>2. Call Poison Center Hotline 1-800-222-1222</li> <li>3. Activate building medical staff</li> <li>4. Utilize building knowledge (MSDS Sheets or Computer)</li> <li>5. Call District Office</li> <li>7. Locate emergency contact information of participants</li> </ol>
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When in doubt, call 911  
 Request information & confirm information  
 Report information about crisis incident  
 Plan time for debriefing rest of day  
 Refer to crisis manual for additional details  
 Any time you are able to locate the building take attendance

## Universal Emergency Procedures

P13

Universal Emergency Procedures are a set of standard, clear directives that can be implemented across a variety of emergency situations. When the emergency begins, the Principal or his designee, as the Incident Commander (IC) will decide upon the Universal Emergency Procedures to implement.

There are six Universal Procedures to respond to various emergency situations:

1. Evacuation 2. Severe Weather 3. Bus Evacuation 4. Lock Down 5. Off-Site Evacuation & Reunification 6. Shelter in Place

**1. Evacuation (Fire)** – An orderly and preplanned exit from a building when conditions are safer outside than inside.

**Signal** – loud continuous blast from alarm horn and pulsating strobe lights

- \* Take closest & safest planned route out of building
- \* Be familiar with 2<sup>nd</sup> route as needed
- \* Teachers take attendance – take classroom kits
- \* Office staff ensures evacuation destination is safe
- \* Office staff take building crisis kit & megaphone
- \* Office staff account for itinerant staff & visitors
- \* Assist those with special needs

**Drill to be held monthly – Record Results**

**2. Tornado or Severe Weather Shelter** – Placement of students and staff in a pre-determined interior part of the building where damaged due to weather will be less

**Signal** – Clear speech announcement via intercom

- \* Students take duck and cover positions
- \* Remain quiet for further instructions
- \* Teachers take attendance – close all doors & windows
- \* Teachers take classroom crisis kit (if have one)
- \* Pre-determine communication methods between office staff and shelter areas
- \* Remain until all clear is given
- \* Assist those with special needs

**Drill to be held 3 times annually – Record Results**

**3. School Bus Evacuation** – An orderly removal of bus occupants due to an emergency situation

**Signal** – Verbal directions given by the bus driver, adult aid, sponsor or designated student helper

- \* Assess the need to evacuate & recognize the hazard
- \* Safe exit of students (passengers) is first priority
- \* Indicate type of evacuation (i.e. – front door, rear floor emergency, side door or combination, etc.)
- \* Assist younger students or those with special needs
- \* Use radio or other communication systems to obtain help and notify dispatch of situation and precise location
- \* Direct passengers to a safe area 100' from bus
- \* Take fire extinguishers, first aid kits & other safety items
- \* Take attendance & stay together

**Drill to be held once each semester – Record Results**

**4. Lock Down** – A situation where there is an imminent threat inside or outside of the building. Students and staff are to immediately go to a protective place/position in their room

**Lock In/Out** – Schools practice a lock in/out as part of this drill. A lock in/out is where normal activities continue in the classroom, but students & staff remain in their assigned room

**Signal** – intercom announcement (if possible) pre-determine a secondary communication method for each building

- \* Clear all hallways – report to nearest available classroom
- \* Close, cover and lock all windows and doors – shut off lights
- \* Move away from doors and windows drop to floor in designated place – usually with backs against interior walls
- \* BE QUIET! – Wait for further instructions
- \* Take attendance – use red/green card system if part of plan
- \* Assist those with special needs

**Drill to be held once each semester – Record Results**

**5. Off-Site Evacuation & Reunification** – An orderly removal of students and staff to a pre-determined host location (or a safe area in building) due to conditions inside the school building.

**Signal** – Clear speech announcement using the intercom. If the intercom is unavailable a pre-determined method will be used

- \* Find and use pre-determined evacuation & reunification procedures
- \* Staff will escort students to safe area
- \* Method of transporting to safe area may be either by walking or by bus transportation
- \* Teachers take attendance and account for all their students before leaving school
- \* Teachers take their classroom crisis kits
- \* Office staff take the building crisis kit and account for itinerant staff and visitors
- \* Upon arrival at host site, teachers retake attendance
- \* Upon arrival at host site, additional instructions will be given for reunification
- \* Assist those with special needs

**Drill to be held annually – Record Results**

**6. Shelter in Place (SIP)** – Placement of students and staff in a pre-determined area of the building's interior due to an external gas or chemical release.

**Signal** – Clear speech announcement via the intercom

- \* Move students and staff to designated area(s)
- \* Open and use items from SIP kit to seal off area
- \* Shut down HVAC - close, lock & seal doors & windows
- \* Take attendance
- \* Do not allow anyone to leave area
- \* Wait for further instructions
- \* Assist those with special needs
- \* Teachers take classroom kits to SIP area

**Drill to be held annually – Record Results**

**Evacuation, Tornado and Bus Drills are required.  
Lock Down, Off-site Evacuation & SIP Drills are encouraged.**

### Building Crisis Kit - Suggested Contents

A building crisis kit is an organized kit that contains helpful items to building staff and emergency responders during a crisis incident in their local school. The following is a suggested list of items usually placed in the Building Crisis Kit:

- a. Container - often a large duffel bag or backpack that can be carried
  - b. Building crisis plans and procedures
  - c. Recent yearbook
  - d. Current student roster
  - e. Current staff roster
  - f. Current visitor roster
  - g. Vests or hats or some means of identifying crisis team members
  - h. Whistles
  - i. Emergency phone number list
  - j. Building Walkie-talkies
  - k. Interoperable radio with first responders (if possible)
  - l. NOAA Weather Radio
  - m. Cell phone
  - n. Pens, pencil and markers
  - o. Special needs of students and staff - (use guided by HIPAA & FERPA)
  - p. Campus and site maps
  - q. First aid supplies
  - r. First aid instructions
  - s. Water
- 
- t. Flashlights
  - u. Extra batteries
  - v. Battery operated radio (NOAA weather radio)
  - w. Blankets
  - x. Sanitary items (Paper towels, TP, Moist Towelettes)
  - y. Work gloves
  - z. Disposable plastic gloves
  - aa. Electronic megaphone
  - bb. Clipboard and paper
  - cc. Basic hand tool
  - dd. Utility turn off procedures
  - ee. Plastic drop cloths
  - ff. Breathing masks
  - gg. Hand sanitizer
  - hh. Duct tape
  - ii. Disposable camera
  - jj. Binoculars
  - kk. Other as needed





Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools  
Classroom Crisis Kit (Suggested) Contents

A classroom kit is intended to be a 'grab and go' organized kit that contains helpful items to the classroom teacher, students, building staff and emergency responders during a crisis event. The following are suggested items with each school adding items as needed:

- a. Grab and go container (often some type of canvas bag)
- b. Building Crisis Plans
- c. Flashlight + extra batteries
- d. Water
- e. Clipboard
- f. Writing paper
- g. Pens, pencils & markers
- h. Whistle
- i. Note cards
- j. Small first aid kit
- k. Plastic drop cloth
- l. Class roster & photos - current attendance
- m. Emergency student phone information - marked confidential
- n. List of classroom special needs-(marked confidential and use guided by HIPAA & FERPA)
- o. Hand sanitizer
- p. Disposable gloves
- q. Student activities
- r. Hat, vest or some identifier for teacher
- s. Other as needed



### What is the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools?

The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools (KC-SPS) is a collaborative office that assists school districts in fulfilling their mission of providing a safe and prepared learning environment for students and staff. Recognizing not all schools are equally prepared, resource equipped or trained to respond to school emergencies, KC-SPS is available to bridge those gaps and help find solutions. In the four short years KC-SPS has been in existence, Kansas schools have made great strides in preparedness. Benefits of the program to Kansas schools include:

- All Kansas School Districts are eligible members at no cost.
- An annual statewide Safe and Prepared Schools Conference where best practices and lessons are shared among schools. It has grown in attendance from 150 to 400.
- Approximately 75 school district teams have undergone training to construct an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) specifically for their school district working in collaboration with local emergency management and first responders.
- An advisory group of educators, emergency management and first responders guide the activities of KC-SPS to better meet the needs of schools across the state.
- Seven Kansas School/Community Teams have attended FEMA's residential course, "Multi-Hazards Emergency Planning for Schools at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. Four additional school teams are preparing to go in 2013.
- Each year, by gubernatorial proclamation, Kansas promotes a Safe & Prepared Schools Week to raise statewide awareness of the benefits of communities working together to prepare their schools for emergencies.

We are striving for every Kansas School District to be emergency prepared by:

- Forming District and Building emergency response teams
- Conducting a hazard assessment of their local school/community
- Creating and implementing a District EOP and Building emergency response plans
- Requiring staff complete prescribed training
- Standardizing school participation in specified drills
- Equipping each building and classroom with 'crisis kits'
- Collaborating with local first responders and emergency management

Kansas school leaders who have used the services of KC-SPS have said:

- "The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools has been instrumental in assisting our school district to 'create and promote' a culture of safety and preparedness". *Chris Tuck, Seaman USD 345 Health Services Director*
- "Simply put, Safe and Prepared Schools is about protecting kids. The Center works to provide training and support to those who educate students, so they are better prepared to deal with any emergency". *Ron Brown Chief of Topeka Schools Police*
- "KC-SPS is integral in providing training and resources for school emergency plans across Kansas. Their expertise and support are essential for the safety of Kansas School kids". *Dr. Bob Diepenbrock Superintendent of Kingman-Norwich USD #331*
- "The networking, professional development and resources provided by KC-SPS have been a game changer for the Leavenworth School District. The Center has provided school districts across the state an invaluable resource to ensure the safety of our students and staff". *Amy Sloan, Director of Support Services and Education Foundation USD 453*
- "Safe schools are essential for student learning. KC-SPS has done tremendous work to better prepare Kansas Schools for all types of emergencies. Manhattan-Odgen has benefitted greatly from the resources available through the Center."  
*Michele Jones, Communications Coordinator & REMS Grant Director USD 383*





We understand how everyone connected with schools and children had our hearts broken and our spirits crushed as we learned about the unexplainable tragedy last Friday in Newtown, Connecticut. Words seem inadequate to address this horrific loss. However, we must enter into discussions and take actions that will make a difference in school safety and preparedness for our students, staff and communities.

Several have shared their plans to address this tragedy as school begins again this week. Your sensitive and thoughtful words and actions will bring some comfort and assurance to your local school communities. We need to be reminded that schools are still some of the safest places for our students. These words seem hollow right now but will hopefully spur us on to do more to make our schools as safe and prepared as possible.

To assist you with your goal of increased safety and preparedness, we offer the following to you for consideration:

1. Engage or re-engage your school district's crisis management teams.
2. Review and update your school's crisis/emergency management plans and have them focus on the all-hazard approach.
3. Connect with and establish a relationship with you local community's first responders, emergency management, physical and mental health professionals, local officials and your faith community.
4. Undertake safety and security drills and exercises with a new sense of realism and purpose.
5. Become aware of and participate in training, workshops and conferences that focus on school safety and preparedness.
6. Communicate with your school community about your safety/preparedness plans.
7. The safety of our students is job one when they are under our care.

There are many helpful online resources that provide useful information as we deal with school tragedies, violence, mental illness and school preparedness. Some to consider are:

1. National Association of School Psychologists [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)
2. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org)
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)
4. National Institute of Mental Health [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)
5. National Association of School Nurses [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)
6. Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools – Technical Assistance Center [www.rems.ed.gov](http://www.rems.ed.gov)
7. FEMA – [www.ready.gov/school-emergency-plans](http://www.ready.gov/school-emergency-plans)
8. NEA – [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

School safety and preparedness is more than just an educational responsibility. It is a community responsibility. While schools and all of us are vulnerable to actions or incidents that can lead to emergencies, there are things we can do to increase our preparedness. A special thanks goes out to school officials, first responders, emergency management and policy makers who everyday assist schools in creating a safe and prepared learning environment.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers, the heartbroken families, friends, school personnel and first responders in Newtown, Connecticut as they cope with this enormous tragedy.

Dr. Bob Hull and Staff of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools  
[www.kspreparedschools.org](http://www.kspreparedschools.org) or [hull@olatheschools.org](mailto:hull@olatheschools.org)  
 Topeka Office Phones 785-274-1412 or 785-861-3022



KC-SPS Survey Comparison Results 2009 vs 2011

Selected Question	(Results in Percentages)	
	2009	2011
	Yes/No	Yes/No
#1 – My local school has an all-hazards crisis plan and is adequately prepared for crisis events	46 54	75 25
#7 – I believe there is a need for additional training for my school's crisis management team	87 13	95 5
#8 – My school's crisis management plan has been shared with local emergency responders	37 63	66 34
#9 – My local school has lock down drills at least annually	40 60	61 39
#10 – My local school has a shelter in place drill annually	27 73	55 45
#13 – My local school has a building crisis kit	28 72	64 36
#14 – My local school has a grab and go crisis kit for every classroom	14 86	40 60
#15 – My local school has an annual table top drill	12 88	20 80
#16 – In my local community, school officials, first responders & EM meet on a regular basis	28 72	34 66
#18 – I believe a state wide office assisting local schools in emergency management is beneficial	92 8	93 7