



School Safety Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2013

School Safety Information Sharing Program

The Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC), in partnership with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), has established a program for sharing information as it relates to school safety with those whose job it is to protect students, employees, and infrastructure. This initiative, the School Safety Information Sharing Program (SSISP), promotes mutually collaborative communications, working relationships, partnerships, and information sharing.

Members have access to:

- A dedicated K-12 and campus intelligence officer
- For Official Use Only (FOUO) information for those who “need to know” to help aid in school and campus safety
- Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information related to school and campus safety (Sworn Officers Only)
- Situational Awareness on topics that could affect safety at Illinois schools and campuses
- Monthly newsletter outlining legislation in Illinois, grant opportunities, Illinois and national trends, and other material to help protect our future through information sharing
- Monthly webinars

Administrators, or those in charge of making safety decisions, as well as sworn police officers involved in school and campus safety are encouraged to join.

Those wishing to join this free program must complete the SSISP application and non-disclosure agreement. Please send inquiries to schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us.

*Protecting our
future through
information
sharing*

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In Remembrance

Teachers Mike Landsberry and Colleen Ritzer killed at different schools days apart.

Ready to Respond Campus

The pilot phase of the Ready to Respond Campus program will conclude this month. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) plans to launch a state-wide roll out in January 2014. The Ready to Respond Campus is the second component of the Ready to Respond Community initiative.

The Ready to Respond Campus program recognizes institutions that meet rigorous standards for enhanced safety for students, staff and visitors on college and university campuses and allow current and prospective students and their parents to know that safety is a top priority on their campus. The program is endorsed by the Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (ICLEA) and supported by the IEMA and the University of Illinois' Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ). Ready to Respond Campus is more than just a plan on a shelf. The program requires participating colleges and universities to dive deeper into a wide range of preparedness activities that demonstrate the institution's commitment to strengthening communication, coordination and collaboration with the whole community.

Nine colleges and universities volunteered to participate in the Ready to Respond Campus pilot program including:

- Augustana College (Rock Island)
- Columbia College (Chicago)
- Heartland Community College (Normal)
- Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills)
- Parkland College (Champaign)
- Richland Community College (Decatur)
- Southeastern Illinois College (Harrisburg)
- Southern Illinois University (Carbondale)
- University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign)

To attain the Ready to Respond Campus designation, colleges must include:

- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and/or Consequence Analysis: Identify threats and hazards that are natural, technological, or human caused that could impact the campus, assess the risks and vulnerabilities the threats and hazards could cause to their campuses, and coordinate mitigation plans with local emergency management and other stakeholder organizations.
- Campus Emergency Plan: Complete a campus emergency plan or campus emergency operations plan (EOP) as appropriate for the higher education institution's capabilities and limitations for response and recovery. The plan also must be signed off on by any external entity named in the plan as providing resources or capabilities.
- Incident Management System: The higher education institution shall have a strategy for establishing and organizing an event-based chain of command that is compliant with FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) for response and recovery.
- Training: The higher education institution shall have a documented training program that includes annual training on campus emergency response and violence prevention plans for appropriate program officials, campus faculty and staff, students and off-site emergency management officials.
- Exercises: The higher education institution shall have a documented exercise, evaluation, and corrective process for and conduct annual exercises in partnership with off-site emergency management officials and response organizations as appropriate.

Flu Shot Reminder

According to the CDC the flu season can start as early as October and last all the way through May. The best prevention is an annual flu shot to help reduce the chances that you will get the flu or spread it to others.

EDUCATION
NEWS



For Illinois

Ready to Respond Campus (continued)

Monthly Webinars!

First Wednesday of
Every Month at 10
am.

November 6, 2013 -

Special guest on
school grant
opportunities and
other school and
campus Illinois
updates, Director
Monken from IEMA.

December 4, 2013 -

Special guest on
Bullying, Christine
Feller, Internet Safety
Specialist from the
Office of the Illinois
Attorney General

Each webinar has a
round table discussion at
the end. Questions
always welcome!

To participate, you must be a
vetted member. For more
information please email
schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us

- Campus Violence Prevention: Establish a violence prevention committee, a campus threat assessment team (already legislatively required of campuses) and develop an inter-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional campus violence prevention plan.
- Campus Outreach Campaign: The higher education institution must have a documented program and/or processes to conduct campus outreach and education campaigns focused on campus and individual preparedness that includes students, faculty, and staff.

All required Ready to Respond Campus criteria is outlined in a six page application checklist that comes with a 19 page supplemental guide that includes available resources to assist campuses with templates, best practices and guidance for the development and implementation of preparedness activities. IEMA templates are also available but are not required to be used as long as criteria for the program is met.

Colleges and universities meeting the criteria will be designated a Ready to Respond Campus and can use the Ready Campus logo on official correspondence, websites, brochures and other media for three years. They will be able to renew their Ready to Respond Campus designation by submitting updated documentation at that time.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, there are expected to be some changes from the above description. However, based on initial feedback from the pilot sites, it is not expected to significantly deviate. Pilot participants in the Ready to Respond Campus will give constructive feedback prior to the final rollout, January 2014, to help guide the program's success.

What does the Ready to Respond Campus program have to do with Illinois schools?

School violence and natural disasters have impacted both colleges and universities, and K-12 schools. No community is immune from the threat and risk of disasters and acts of violence. One only needs to review the horrific events that have occurred nationally over the last 12 months. Is my school prepared? Have we dedicated the appropriate time and resources to ensure the preparedness of our staff? Are our plans and procedures fully integrated with those of local public safety agencies? Have we done our preparedness homework to ensure there is at least one school prepared for an emergency, our school?

In January 2014, a pilot program called Ready to Respond Schools is planned to begin in the state of Illinois. This program will be similar to the Ready to Respond Campus program, however will have some differences based on school safety needs. The pilot program will include a range of different types of schools from across the state representing urban, rural, and different size school districts throughout all areas of Illinois. If your school district is interested in volunteering and participating in the new Ready to Respond Schools pilot program, please contact Joan Carnduff at Joan.Carnduff@illinois.gov. She can also be reached for any questions regarding Ready to Respond Campus or Ready to Respond Schools.



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Questions from School Safety Information Sharing Members

Schools and Campuses School Safety Information Sharing Members are welcome to ask questions. The following are a few that were brought to the program's attention you might be interested in.

Q: There are some schools who hire retired law enforcement or off-duty police officers to carry weapons for security on school grounds. According to the new Firearms Concealed Carry Act, concealed carry is not allowed on public or private school grounds. Will this Act eliminate the ability for schools to allow retired law enforcement or off-duty police officers to carry a concealed firearm on school grounds?

A: No. Sworn law enforcement and retired law enforcement in good standing are exempt from the entire Firearms Concealed Carry Act. Therefore they will still be allowed to carry a concealed firearm on school property.

Q: Is there any more information about the grant detailed in the September School Safety Information Newsletter?

A: There is currently no new information, however, we hope to have more details for the next newsletter.

Q: The last School Safety Information Sharing Newsletter included requirements for schools to participate in required drills. Are there any required drills for Illinois campuses?

A: There are no required drills for campuses in Illinois. However the federal Jeanne Clery Act's 2008 amendment added provisions that require annual emergency response and evacuation procedures tests. For more information, the Clery Act can be found at: <http://clerycenter.org/sites/default/files/Jeanne%20Clery%20Act%20Full%20Text.pdf>

Important Safety Reminder:

*Report any unusual or
suspicious activity to your
local law enforcement.*

Communication is key.

