

School Safety Planning



North Wasco County School District

September '25

Planning and Safety Drills

North Wasco County Schools collaborate with our local law enforcement and fire/rescue. During many of the drills, law enforcement and fire/rescue may be seen in or around the school building. By participating in these drills, law enforcement and fire/rescue are familiar with the protocols and procedures used in emergency situations, can then better navigate the school building layout, and create an essential working relationship with the District.

[Oregon laws](#) require that all schools conduct a Fire Drill once per month and two Earthquake Drills per school year. In addition to the required drills, our schools also conduct two Safety drills per year, and may drill a Lockdown, Secure and/or Shelter event during the school year. Parents and other school visitors are encouraged to participate in these safety exercises if they are inside the school at the time of the drill.

To ensure our students are well-prepared, we conduct the following drills throughout the school year:

- **Fire Drills: Monthly**
- **Safety Drills: Twice a year**
- **Earthquake Drills: Twice a year**

Key Safety Terms

> LOCKDOWN

A lockdown takes place if a **threat is identified inside** the school building. All school doors are locked and students are confined to classrooms. No entry or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made. Students will NOT be released during a lockdown.

> SECURE

A secure takes place if a **threat is outside** of the school building. All staff and students return inside and all exterior school doors are locked. **Teachers continue instruction as usual.** No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made. Students will NOT be released during a secure.

> SHELTER

Students take refuge in designated areas to protect them from hazardous materials or severe weather. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all clear” announcement is made. Students will NOT be released during a shelter-in-place.

> EVACUATION

In the event of certain building emergencies (i.e. gas leak, catastrophic event), students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area. Students will be released ONLY to parents/guardians or emergency contacts with picture ID.

Importance of Preparedness

- Safety drills are **not just a box to check**—they are a critical way of ensuring students and staff know what to do in an emergency.
- Emergencies can take many forms: fire, earthquake, medical situations, threats inside or outside the building. We prepare for all of these so that, if the unexpected happens, students and staff can respond calmly and effectively.

Building Student Confidence

- When students practice these drills regularly, they don't panic. They know what to do, and that sense of preparedness helps reduce anxiety.
- For younger students, it's about learning routines. For older students, it's about responsibility—they see themselves as active participants in school safety.
- It allows us to highlight, talk about, and build relationships between students and the helpers, like law enforcement, Fire, and emergency medical services. That way, for some students, the first time they encounter helpers isn't a high-stress incident.



Behavioral Safety Assessment 101

(formerly Threat Assessment)

What is it? How is it done in NWCS?



Behavioral Safety Assessment - what is it?

- Developed using studies conducted by the US Secret Service.
- **Examines the circumstances** around “a threat that was made”.
- Looks for “attack related behavior” indicating a greater risk of a planned act of targeted violence.
- **The assessment itself has a very narrow focus** (planned acts of targeted violence).

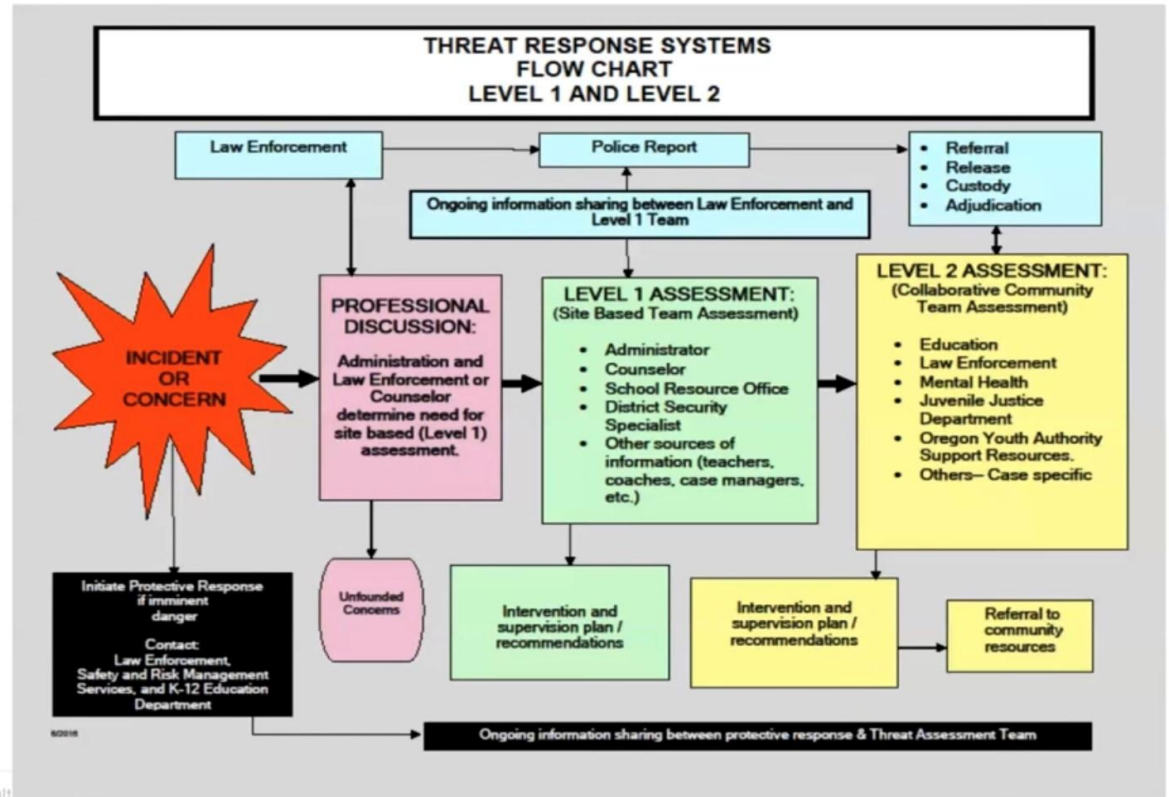
What it isn't: A tool for profiling students.

What do we have in NWCSD?:

- We use the **Salem/Keizer (Cascade) model** of threat assessment.
- A goal to have **4 trained staff in every building**.
- Each school currently has a team of 2-4 trained staff called “the Level 1 team”.
- Each Level 1 team has a binder with the forms, visual flow charts and guide for conducting a Level 1 assessment.
- District level support from the Superintendent's office and the Department of Prevention & Intervention.
- An **established Community Safety Assessment Team (CSAT)** known as “the Level 2 team” (core members: WCYS, DCP, Wasco County DA, OYA, Center for Living).

How does the system work?

- Information about a threat is received.
- **Trained Level 1 team members review the information:**
 - Threat Dismissal
 - Immediate Protective Response & Level 1 assessment
 - Level 1 assessment
 - Referral to Level 2 team (CSAT)



What should this look like in our schools?

- Whenever information pertaining to a possible threat of targeted violence is received, and they can come from “anywhere”, two members of the building Level 1 team come together to make an initial assessment.
- **IF there is cause to move forward** with an assessment then the entire Level 1 team would be called together, an administrator trained in the system (or other designated team lead member) would delegate follow up action for each member, set a timeline to collect needed information, then bring the team back together (1-3 hours later) to review the assessment protocol questions.
- While these assessments generally do not need to take a long time, they can extend into a day or two depending on how readily available the needed information is (e.g. when will a student-witness/or parent be available for an interview?)

Supervision & Reintegration Planning

Often times when a Level 1 assessment is completed we “uncover” or discover things that are NOT indicative of a plan for an act of targeted violence, but are of concern and need to be addressed.

The vast majority of threatening statements made by students fall into the category of “reactive aggression”.

Key characteristics of reactive aggression within this model include:

- Absence of planning: It's not premeditated or planned.
- Elevated emotional state: It's usually accompanied by a heightened emotional state, such as anger or fear.
- Perceived threat: The individual believes they are under immediate threat.

Reactive aggression is characterized by an individual perceiving themselves to be under immediate threat. This leads to an escalated emotional state, where the individual uses threats as a means of self-protection or defending their interests and wants. In essence, it's an impulsive and emotional response to a perceived provocation or threat.

ParentSquare Communications

Stay up to date.

>Ensure that your child's emergency contact information is accurate and current in PowerSchool.

> Be familiar with your school emergency communication procedures. Our district is committed to providing accurate and timely information in the event of an emergency.

In Case of a School Emergency:

DO NOT phone your child or child's school. Staff and students are discouraged from using cell phone communications for safety reasons.

DO NOT rush to your child's school. Your presence could interfere with emergency responders.

DO monitor official communication from the District.

DO listen for information regarding reunification and next steps.

100%

CONTACTABLE



2,880 STUDENTS' FAMILIES →

■ **CONTACTABLE 2,868** →

At least one student contact is contactable

■ **NON-CONTACTABLE 10** →

No student contact is contactable

■ **NO CONTACT INFO 2** →

There are no student contacts listed

See Something, Say Something: Safe Oregon

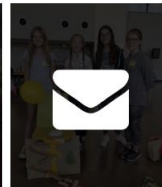
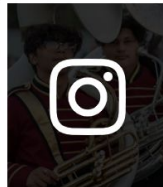
844-472-3367

tip@safeoregon.com

SafeOregon is a confidential and anonymous school safety tip line created to help Oregon students, parents, school staff, community members, and law enforcement report and respond to potential safety threats in schools.

Tips can be submitted through email, phone calls, text, a mobile app, or a web portal. All tips are immediately reviewed by trained technicians 24/7 and forwarded to school personnel or law enforcement as needed for quick action and resolution.

For more information, visit: [SafeOregon](https://www.safeoregon.com).



Community Partnerships

Safety doesn't happen in isolation. We partner with law enforcement, fire/rescue, and other first responders. Their presence in our drills isn't just for show—they're learning our buildings, our procedures, and how to coordinate with us in real time.

This partnership means that, if a real emergency occurs, we're not meeting for the first time in a crisis—we already have a working relationship.

- City of The Dalles Police Department
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- Columbia Gorge Education Service District
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Police Department
- Mid-Columbia Center for Living
- Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
- The Next Door
- Trillium Family Services
- YouthThink
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State Police
- SafeSpace Children's Advocacy Center
- Wasco County Juvenile Department
- Wasco County Sheriff's Office

Moving Forward

- Restarting Wasco County Crisis Response Team (WCCRT)
 - Regional Reunification Drill (Sub-Committee) - June
- Possible Grant Project: Emergency Management Trailer

