

Senate Bill 11 and DISD Safety, Security and Emergency Preparedness - an update



Prepared by Theresa Grant, RN
Director, Health Services

For Board of Trustees, Sept. 8, 2009

Why school safety and security??

- April 29, 2009 - *Alleged bomb plot foiled at Springbrook High School*
- April 29, 2009 - *UIL Schedules Altered Due to Swine Flu*
- April 26, 2009 - *Temporary Closure of All SCUCISD Campuses*
- April 17, 2009 - *School Safety, 10 Years After Columbine*

and...

- April 13, 2009 - *Kids assaulted on school bus*
- April 10, 2009 - *Two killed in Michigan college shooting*
- April 10, 2009 - *Police Foil Colorado High School Shooting Plot*
- March 25, 2009 - *Report: Few states responding to teen dating violence*
- March 24, 2009 - *Girl stabbed during argument at Fort Worth middle school*

This workshop item will:



- provide background reminders on Senate Bill 11 requirements
- provide a status report on compliance, our accomplishments, and needed improvements for our **non-campus** buildings
- highlight our collaboration in emergency management with city, county, and other municipalities

Senate Bill 11 requirements

Passed in the 79th Texas Legislature,
this bill:



- It requires school districts to implement a Multi-Hazard
Emergency **O**perations **P**lan

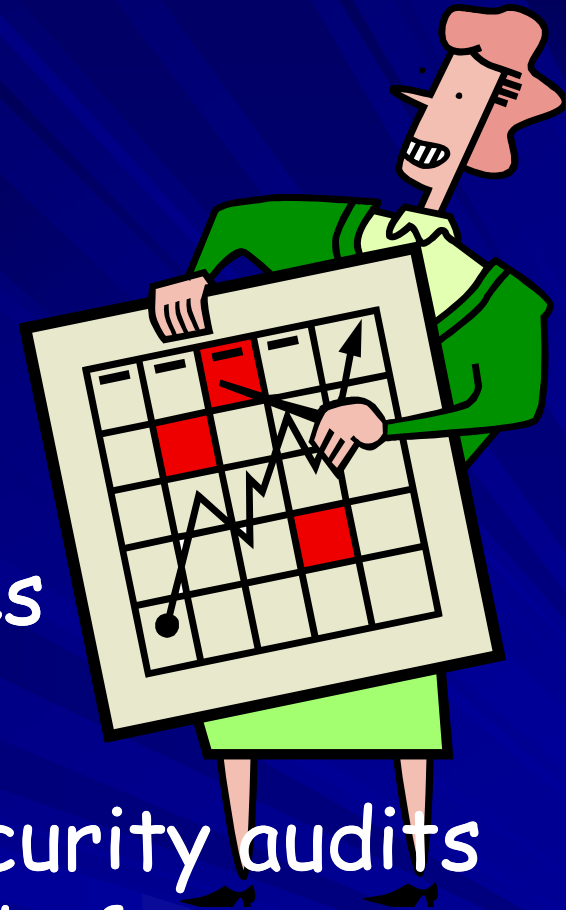
It also requires...

- mandatory school drills to prepare students and employees for emergency response
- emergency response training for all school district personnel
- measured coordination between local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, and fire departments

and that

- security audits be conducted every three years in district facilities

- the results of those security audits to be reported to board of trustees



Our plan must address:



- Mitigation
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery
- and follow recommendations of
- Department of Homeland Security
 - National Response Plan

It must have a multi-hazard approach

- Fire
- Explosions
- Bomb threats
- Chemical spills
- Intruders
- Active shooter
- Flooding



- Widespread disasters
- Student or employee death
- Contagious disease outbreaks
- Tornadoes/high winds
- Bus accidents



Mitigation and Prevention

Schools should conduct an assessment to identify all potential hazards that they could face, including both natural events and man-made events and conduct training for those events

What do we do in
Denton ISD?!?

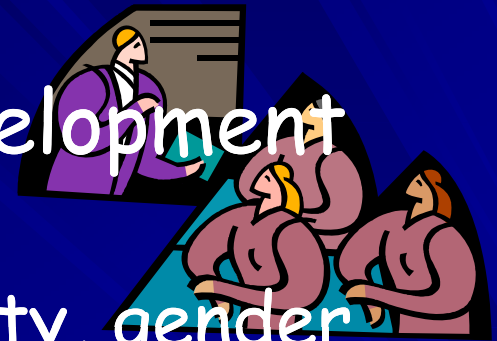


- First round of audits have been conducted for each building, both campus and non-campus

- We have conducted staff development for:

Counselors (bullying, internet safety, gender respect, drug abuse, child antivictimization, gang awareness, stress management, who in turn provide the information to parents and students)

Nurses (CPR and AED, first responder for trauma, bioterrorism awareness and response, evacuation readiness)



Principals and other administrators
(emergency response, school safety)
All employees (crisis management flip
chart information)
Bus drivers
Food service personnel

and we also have

■ Choose to Care

...just to name a few!

Preparedness



Local emergency management, law enforcement, health, and mental health personnel should be involved in developing crisis protocols. Written agreements should be drafted, such as memoranda of understanding, that clearly delineate the roles of both emergency responders and school officials during a crisis.



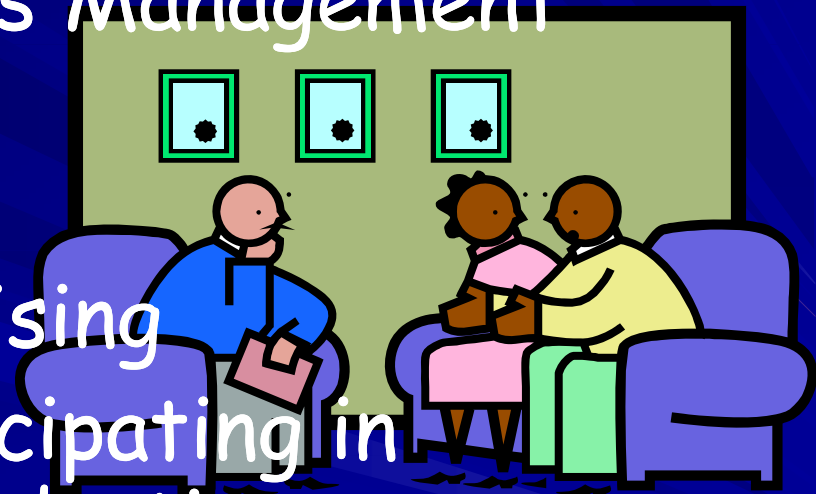
To prepare, we have



- Tabletop drills facilitated by Chief Minter
- Planning meetings with all EMS providers each time we open up a new facility
- Agreements with Red Cross, City of Denton, Denton County, Health Dept., and other districts to share resources in critical events

We also have...

- Counselor teams from our schools, the community, UNT and TWU certified in Critical Incident Stress Management prepared to respond
- SROs and their supervising sergeant actively participating in security audits and conducting our intruder assessments



And...

- City and county representatives from emergency management, fire department/EMS, police, sheriff's office, and health department reviewing school plans and making recommendations for changes
- A school representative at city and county emergency planning and advisory council meetings

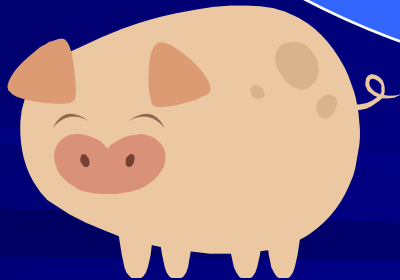
Preparation continues

Parents should be made aware of the crisis plans at their child's school. In a crisis, their knowledge of the crisis plan can help reduce confusion, panic, and perhaps serious injury.

What we have done well...

- Surveys with parents, faculty, nurses and administration indicated that the rapid methods of communication during our H1N1 event were very well received

Caused a lot of trouble, didn't I?
Hogged all the attention for two weeks!



more preparation requirements

Schools need to work closely with health providers and volunteer organizations to develop lists of their available resources before a disaster strikes. Knowledge of available human resources and stocks of equipment can save precious time during an emergency

We are doing this on an ongoing basis - it is ever-changing!

Frequent drills, using as many alternate evacuation routes as possible, should be conducted to reduce the possibility that students and staff become unnecessary victims in a crisis, and to ensure that responses by public safety officials are well thought out and appropriate.

Frequent drills help ensure that staff and students know what their responsibilities are during a crisis.

Drills - a preparedness foundation



Drill requirements for each building administrator

- Fire drills
- Weather safe drills (shelter in place)
- Lock down
- Bomb threat
- Reverse evacuation
- Site evacuation
- Communication drill



See accountability checklist and planning worksheet

We need...

- To have more drills in the non-campus buildings
- Focus on communication systems (always the "first casualty" in a large event -
(We have some very exciting news to share regarding communications upgrades, Linda Cole from technology will be giving you a demonstration)

Response

- *In a crisis, emergency responders must be aware of the overall makeup and population of the school. Emergency responders must also be aware of the physical layout of the school. Schools should provide them with confidential access to floor plans.*

Our operations department works closely with city responders to provide detailed plans and other information. If the Denton Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated for an event that might involve school, Dr. Braswell or his designee is requested to come to the EOC to provide on-site real-time information. That response ensures that any decisions being made have district input.

Where we need to improve..

Working with other smaller municipalities is a bit more challenging. We need to have the same level of responsiveness and interaction with them as well, since many of our schools are now outside the city limits.

More on response...

- *A response must always take into consideration the ages and mental health of students and staff, as well as their physical abilities and limitations.*



- We make plans at the beginning of the year (and anytime it becomes necessary) to fully protect our students with special needs in the event of an emergency.

Our nurses usually plan those responses with parent and teacher input.

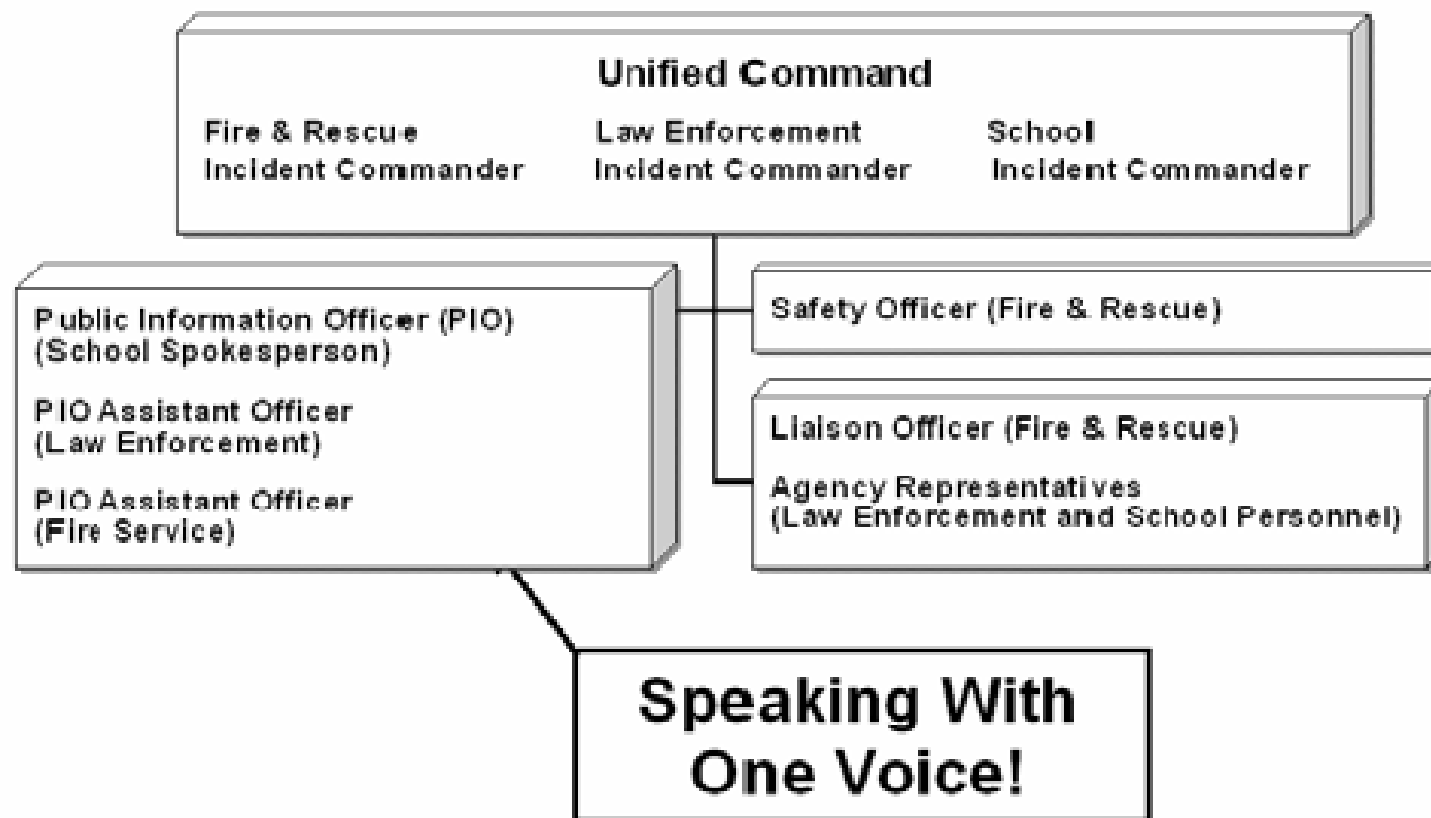
National Incident Management System (NIMS)

- *Schools must become familiar with the Incident Command System, the system that emergency responders use to manage crises that require a multi-agency response. This system unifies terminology, structure, objectives, and functions and ensures that there is one central chain of command with information flowing smoothly to all of the agencies concerned.*

NIMS Course 100 for schools

- Available online for free- takes about an hour to an hour-and-a-half to complete
- Everyone has the same understanding of incident command
- Everyone uses the same language
- Most of our campus administrators and some of our district level administrators have completed this course

School Fire: Unified Command



FEMA

Unit 6:
Unified Command

Recovery

Efforts to return to the school after a disaster must be carefully timed and coordinated to meet the needs of both students and staff.

Schools should work with qualified professionals to assess the emotional needs of students and staff and arrange for counseling and other appropriate interventions.

What we have in place...



Our student and staff assistance program coordinator has “flight teams” ready to go for any campus crisis, ready to establish safe rooms, handle grief, do debriefing in a coordinated way to start the road to recovery

- Resources, both within and without the district, to provide support to students, staff, and parents.

What we still need...

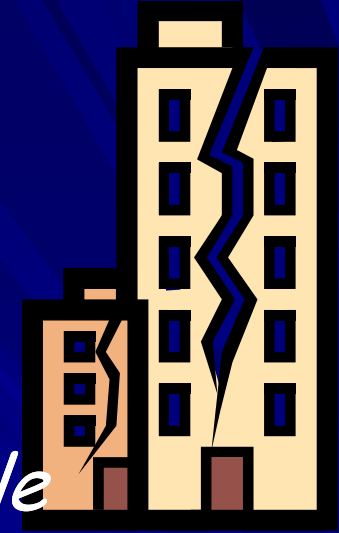
- To have "flight teams" trained to support the principal, the office staff, the counselor, the nurse... help for the helpers!



More on recovery...

- *School and health care officials should have resources available to help school children cope with disaster anniversary dates or memorials.*
- Our campus administrators, counselors and nurses are very proactive in this area...looking ahead to ensure a safe and secure environment at those times.

Recovering still...



- *School buildings may incur considerable damage during an event such as a hurricane or a tornado. Schools should be prepared for the possibility of the need to relocate staff and students to alternate sites while repairs are made. Some districts have developed plans to have schools function in dual shifts, thereby splitting the school day in half. This decreases the chance for the school environment to become overwhelmed.*

How do we operate "in recovery?"

- We have sister sites assigned for each building to provide the best continuity of services to our students
- Our operations department is well-prepared to respond to building issues in a fast, efficient manner to get things back to normal quickly



Security Audits

- Building preparation
- Team preparation
- Audit tool
- Process - surveys, entrance conference, interviews, walk-through, post conference, written report
- Accountability for follow-up



What our non-campus building audits revealed:

- Easy intruder access
- Vulnerable staff
- Lack of consistent drills/exercises
- Need for better communication strategies throughout district and plan for redundancy
- Concerns with old buildings' structural integrity

And...

- A whole lot of people working very hard to provide high quality support services to our students, faculty, staff, and parents!

12 (and $\frac{1}{2}$) Non-campus buildings

- Central Administration
- Clear Creek East
- Technology
- Service Center
- Transportation
- Special Education
- PDC
- Elm St. Building
- Insurance portable
- Wellness Center
- Gallian Child Development Center
- Collins Stadium and natatorium

Outcome of Audits

- A safer, more secure environment for our students, faculty, staff and families!
- A more aware staff, better communication systems, plans in place for untoward events

Questions?



Resources

Texas School Safety Center

Mr. Curtis Clay, Director

www.txssc.txstate.edu/txssc.htm

(877) 245-8082

Safety Center Activities Schedule

<http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/txsscschedule.htm>

Texas Association of School Boards

<http://risk.tasb.org>

(800) 482-7276 x6305