

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (FDOE)
TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS FOR FLORIDA SCHOOLS
2002-2004**

STATE OF FLORIDA PROGRAMS

TRAINING/RESOURCES

- **Statewide Policy for Strengthening Domestic Security in Florida Schools** – this October 2003 policy was developed with input from all seven Regional Domestic Security Task Force Education Subcommittees with guidance from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/em_plan/pdf/terrorism_policy.pdf

- **School Resource Officer (SRO) Response to Terrorism Training** (in partnership with FDLE, Attorney General's Office, Division of Emergency Management, and the Florida Association of School Resource Officers)—training developed for SROs and school administrators to specifically address school hazard identification and vulnerability assessment; identification of weapons of mass destruction; incident site management; tactical considerations; preservation of evidence; critical incident response; planning for the event, and partnerships. Tabletop exercises and/or scenarios are conducted relating to terrorist acts on school campuses. Training was offered across the state between March-June, 2003. More information on the training is available at:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/em_plan/pdf/sro_terrorism.pdf

- **Emergency Drill CD-ROM Training**--this CD-ROM will be developed for the FDOE and will contain basics on how to conduct effective school emergency drills for a variety of scenarios as well as web links for downloading new scenarios as they are developed. The purpose of the CD-ROM is for schools to use to improve their emergency drills.
- **Multi-Hazard Planning for Florida's Schools Training** (on-site training by request; on-line short-course available): This is an eight-hour course that teaches participants how to plan for and recover from school critical incidents and emergencies, including communicating with parents during a critical incident. Participants are taught how to use the foundations of emergency management information in creating their plan, incorporate incident management method into their emergency management plans, identify the people and agencies that should be involved in the planning process, and conduct a hazard and vulnerability analysis of their school or district.

To date training has been conducted at over 15 locations statewide. Training is also available upon request. More information on the training is available at:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/em_plan/training.htm

- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)/Target Hardening Training- Making Schools Safe By Design** (in partnership with the Attorney General's Office)--this is a three-day, hands-on workshop that focuses on access control for schools, natural surveillance and territoriality. Experienced presenters will examine school safety through the perspectives of law enforcement and school administrators by reviewing school designs including parking, student drop-off, bus pick-up, signage, hallways, lockers, restrooms, lighting, and more. Additionally, prominent architects that have designed schools using the CPTED principles will share design strategies for schools from K-12.
- **Creating a School Safety CD-ROM for Site/Floor Plans Training**—training designed to show school districts how to put aerial photographs and campus site plans/floor plans on a CD-ROM for emergency responders. Training was conducted statewide in summer 2001 in partnership with FDLE. Training available upon request.
- **Virtual School Safety Conference**--sessions on a variety of "hot safety topics" will be videotaped around the state and broadcast over Instructional Television (suggested topics: bus safety, working with emergency responders in a crisis, single school culture, threat assessment, etc.) throughout 2003-04.

STATE OF FLORIDA PROGRAMS

SERVICES/PRODUCTS

- **School District Emergency Plan Review**--Regional Planning Councils, in partnership with the FDOE and county emergency management offices, will review school district emergency plans, upon request, for consistency with a list of minimum standards.
- **School Emergency Management Planning Web Page**—the Office of Safe Schools maintains on School Emergency Management Planning Web Page, filled with useful resources for school administrators, teachers, and other stakeholders.

http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/em_plan/emerg_plan.htm

- **Critical Situations for School Bus Operation**--the STMS and the Office of Safe Schools are in the final stages of developing a resource document on handling a variety of specific, critical situations that may occur during the operation of school buses with students on board.
- **Best Practices for Safety and Security [Office of Program Policy and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA)] Technical Assistance**—the Office of Safe Schools, in conjunction with OPPAGA, provides technical assistance to the school districts, as needed, on the best practices for safety and security self-assessment, which is required by Section 1006.07 (6), Florida Statutes (F.S.).
- **Safe Schools Appropriations Report**—prepared by the Office of Safe Schools, this report summarizes school district expenditures and activities of the Florida Safe Schools Appropriation (\$75,350,000, in 2000-2001). This report includes a brief history of the safe schools effort as well as information on the types of school safety and security activities; number of districts with SROs at the elementary, middle, and/or high school levels; number of districts with security equipment; and other critical issues for school safety. This report is available at:-

http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/pdf/2000_02ssa.pdf

STATE OF FLORIDA LEGISLATION

2004 Session

- **Senate Bill 556/HB 1013:** District School Board Duties/Emergency; revises guidelines governing district school board duties regarding emergency management & emergency preparedness; provides requirements for number & type of emergency drills that each school must conduct (requires five (5) egress/fire drills, two (2) tornado drills, one (1) hazardous materials drill, and two (2) more drills of the schools' choosing in lieu of the current 10 fire drills per year). Died in Committee.

Relevant Florida Statutes (F.S.)

- **Emergency Drills and Procedures** (s. 1006.07(4), F.S.),

(4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.--

(a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, and bomb threats, for all the public schools of the district which comprise grades K-12. District school board policies shall include commonly used alarm system responses for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that drills have been provided as required by law and fire protection codes.

(b) The district school board shall establish model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for the following life-threatening emergencies:

1. Weapon-use and hostage situations.
2. Hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills.
3. Weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
4. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

- **Safety and Security Best Practices** (s. 1006.07(6), F.S.),

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.--Use the Safety and Security Best Practices developed by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a self-assessment of the school districts' current safety and security practices. Based on these self-assessment findings, the district school superintendent shall provide recommendations to the district school board which identify strategies and activities that the district school board should implement in order to improve school safety and security. Annually each district school board must receive the self-assessment results at a publicly noticed district school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the district school board members discuss and take action on the report findings. Each district school superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and school board action to the commissioner within 30 days after the district school board meeting.

- **Coordination of School Safety Information** (s. 1013.13, F.S.):

1013.13 Coordination of school safety information; construction design documents.--

(1) Each district school superintendent must provide to the law enforcement agency and fire department that has jurisdiction over each educational facility a copy of the floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational facility in the district, as defined in s. 1013.01. After the initial submission of the floor plans and other relevant documents, the district superintendent of schools shall submit, by October 1 of each year, revised floor plans and other relevant documents for each educational facility in the district that was modified during the preceding year.

- **Public Meetings Exemptions**

286.0113 General exemptions from public meetings.

Those portions of any meeting which would reveal a security system plan or portion thereof made confidential and exempt by s. 119.071(1) are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution. This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995, in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2006, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

- **General Exemptions of Public Records** (s. 119.071, F.S.),

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.--A security system plan or portion thereof for:

(1) Any property owned by or leased to the state or any of its political subdivisions; or

(2) Any privately owned or leased property which plan or portion thereof is in the possession of any agency, as defined in s. 119.011, is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. As used in this section, the term a "security system plan" includes all records, information, photographs, audio and visual presentations, schematic diagrams, surveys, recommendations, or consultations or portions thereof relating directly to the physical security of the facility or revealing security systems; threat assessments conducted by any agency as defined in s. 119.011 or any private entity; threat response plans; emergency evacuation plans; sheltering arrangements; or manuals for security personnel, emergency equipment, or security training. This exemption is remedial in nature and it is the intent of the Legislature that this exemption be applied to security system plans received by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this section. Information made confidential and exempt by this section may be disclosed by the custodial agency to another state or federal agency to prevent, detect, guard against, respond to, investigate, or manage the consequences of any attempted or actual act of terrorism, or to prosecute those persons who are responsible for such attempts or acts, and the confidential and exempt status of such information shall be retained while in the possession of the receiving agency. This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995, in accordance with s. 119.15, and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2006, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Federal Resources

- ***Bomb Threat Assessment Guide***--the U.S. Department of Education, in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, will release an interactive CD-ROM training tool to provide information and training related to the ways school administrators, security officers, school resources officers, teachers, and staff can effectively deal with bomb threats. Available at:
<http://www.threatplan.org>
- ***Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities***--the U.S. Department of Education has a guide to provide schools and communities with basic guidelines and useful ideas on how to develop emergency response and crisis management plans. Available at:
<http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/crisisplanning.pdf>