

Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning District and Selected School Survey Results

2000-2001 School Year

Florida Department of Education
Division of Public Schools
Bureau of Equity, Safety and School Support
Office of Safe Schools

**Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning
2000-2001 School Year**

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Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning District and Selected Schools Surveys 2000-2001 School Year

The Office of Safe Schools in the Bureau of Equity, Safety and School Support, Florida Department of Education, prepared the Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning District and Selected Schools surveys. For additional information on these surveys, contact the Office of Safe Schools at (850) 414-7777.

Information for this report was collected December 2000 and January, 2001. Sixty-four out of 67 school districts reported and 62 schools out of 180 responded to the two surveys.

OVERVIEW

In November 2000, the Department of Education conducted a survey of Florida's school districts to better understand their level of emergency preparedness as well as any unmet needs for resources, training, and technical assistance that might exist. The survey was developed with the input of the Interagency Advisory Committee for the School Emergency Plans Project (see attached list of members).

According to survey results, on average eight out of ten emergency drills conducted in Florida schools are fire drills. Real emergencies faced by over half of the districts are (in order of decreasing frequency): bus accident, injury/illness, bomb threat, severe weather, guns/weapons, trespasser, and evacuation. The results of the survey also show that the majority of school districts in Florida started the crisis planning process within the past two to three years. Ninety-eight percent of districts appear to have a plan in place, with over half of those plans being a district-wide plan that addresses all schools. Ninety-five percent of the districts developed their plans using a team approach. Most teams included law enforcement, emergency management, fire service, and emergency medical services in their planning process. But less than half of the districts responding included parent organizations, mental health service providers, and local media in the development of their plans.

When asked about needs for improving their capabilities to handle school emergencies, the districts responded as follows: 66% requested emergency preparedness training and 63% identified a need for technical assistance from Department staff. Over half asked for evaluation of existing school emergency response plans and just under half of the responding districts wanted resource telephone numbers, an e-mail discussion group, planning guidelines, conflict resolution training, and a web resource.

Responses to a January 2001 survey of selected Florida public schools revealed similar levels of preparedness, but slightly different needs. The survey instruments for districts and schools were very similar, varying only where necessary. Only 89% of schools (compared to 95% of districts) used a "team approach" when developing their plans. Of those schools that did include other agencies in their planning process, most worked with law enforcement and fire-rescue departments. Administrators, school staff, and teachers were included in the planning process in over 80% of the schools that responded to the survey, but custodial/maintenance staff, parents, cafeteria staff bus drivers, and students were less likely to be included. Over three-quarters of the schools reported having a designated emergency coordinator.

On average, nine out of 12 emergency drills were fire drills at the school level. Most emergencies faced by the schools we surveyed were related to often injury/illness (68%). Less than half of the schools that responded experienced the following critical incidents (in order of descending frequency): severe weather, trespasser, bus accident, hurricane, bomb threat, guns/weapons, lighting, evacuation, and fire. Needs identified by the schools include emergency preparedness training (69%), crisis intervention team training (65%), resource telephone numbers (42%), planning guidelines/standards (40%), technical assistance from the Department of Education (32%), and evaluation of existing plans (32%).

Based upon these results, the Department will assist in providing needed resources, training, and technical assistance in identified areas.

**District
Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning
Survey Results
2000-2001**

2000-2001 District Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning Survey Results

1. Does your district currently have a critical incident/emergency plan?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	63	98%
No	1	2%

1a. If you answered “Yes” above, what year did your district develop its plan?

Average Response: 1996

1b. When was your district plan last revised?

Average Response: 2000

2. Do schools within the district have critical incident/emergency plans?

Response	Number
Yes, one district-wide plan for all schools.	42%
Yes, each school has its own emergency plan.	26%
No, schools within the district do not have emergency plans.	0%
Other*	14%

3. Did you have a team/group develop your district plan?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	61	95%
No	3	5%

4. What agencies/organizations have participated in your district’s planning process?

Agencies/Organizations	Number	Percentage
Law Enforcement	62	97%
Emergency Management	57	89%
Fire Rescue Department	43	67%
Emergency Medical Service	36	56%
Local Health Department	30	47%
Parent Organization	27	42%
Mental Health Service Provider	25	39%
Student Service Groups	20	31%
Other	20	31%
Social Service/Volunteer Organizations	18	28%
Students/Student Organizations	17	27%
Local Media	16	25%
Local Hospital	15	23%
Planning Agencies	8	13%

- Some districts responded to more than one category. In many cases, the district-wide plan was adapted to better serve the needs of each school.

2000-2001 District Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning Survey Results

5. What hazards/incidents does your district emergency plan address?

Hazards/Incidents	Number	Percentage
Bomb Threat	61	95%
Fatality/Suicide	60	94%
Fire	59	92%
Severe Weather	59	92%
Chemical Release	57	89%
Tornado	57	89%
Evacuation	57	89%
Guns/Weapons	55	86%
Kidnapping	53	83%
Riot/Disturbance	53	83%
Hurricane	52	81%
Hostage Situation	51	80%
Trespasser	50	78%
Injury/Illness	45	70%
Bus Accident	46	72%
Lightning	40	63%
Flood	31	48%
Terrorism	27	42%
Nuclear Accident	23	36%
Other	23	36%

6. What phases of a critical incident/emergency does your district plan address for the hazards you checked above?

Phases	Number	Percentage
Preparedness	60	94%
Response	62	97%
Recovery	49	77%
Mitigation	43	67%

7. Does your school district have a designated critical incident/emergency coordinator?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	54	84%
No	8	13%

2000-2001 District Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning Survey Results

8. What safety and security measures are generally available in the schools in your district?

Safety and Security Measures	Number	Percentage
First Aid Kit	64	100%
Counselors/Psychologists/Social Workers	63	98%
School Resource Officers	62	97%
First Aid/CPR-trained Staff	60	94%
Weather Radio	60	94%
Two-way Radios	60	94%
Safety Committee	60	94%
Visitor Badging	57	89%
Lockdown Procedures	55	86%
Staff Training in Critical Incident Response	56	88%
Nurses	54	84%
Conflict Resolution Programs	53	83%
Video Cameras on Buses	53	83%
Perimeter Fencing	48	75%
Student/Staff ID Badges	47	74%
Visitor Access Control System	46	72%
Drug Dogs	45	70%
School Safety Hotline	42	66%
Community Mental Health Agency	40	63%
Video Cameras	39	61%
Uniforms/Dress Code	39	61%
Mediation Programs	37	58%
Metal Detectors	27	42%
School Safety Officers	23	36%
Intrusion Sensors	22	34%
Hurricane Shutters	19	30%
Other	8	13%
Defibrillator (AED)	5	8%
X-Ray Inspection of Bags	1	2%

9. Does your district have a policy that requires posting the names and locations of individuals trained in First Aid/CPR?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	39	61%
No	23	36%

2000-2001 District Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning Survey Results

10. Do schools in the district have a trained crisis response team?

Response	Number	Percentage
None	5	7%
Some	9	14%
Most	14	22%
All	36	56%

11. What type of events have been experienced in your school district within the last three years?

Type of Events	Number	Percentage
Bus Accident	54	84%
Injury/Illness	51	80%
Bomb Threat	52	81%
Severe Weather	47	73%
Guns/Weapons	45	70%
Trespasser	36	56%
Evacuation	37	58%
Fatality/Suicide	31	48%
Hurricane	40	63%
Fire	28	44%
Lightning	25	39%
Tornado	22	34%
Chemical Release	12	19%
Flood	10	16%
Riot/Disturbance	9	14%
Kidnapping	7	11%
Hostage Situation	2	3%
Terrorism	1	2%
Other	1	2%
Nuclear Accident	0	0%

12. Is critical student information portable in the event of an evacuation?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	54	84%
No	8	13%

2000-2001 District Critical Incidents/Emergency Planning Survey Results

13. Does your district have a post-event mental health/student services intervention team?

Response	Number	Percentage
None	5	8%
Some	8	13%
Most	4	6%
All	45	70%

14a. On the average, how many critical incident/emergency drills or exercises do schools within the district conduct each year?

Average Response: 10

14b. Of those drills/exercises specified above, how many are fire drills?

Average Response: 8

15. Does your district currently have a policy regarding cooperation with the news media during critical incidents?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	43	67%
No	21	33%

16. What resources would assist your district and schools in emergency preparedness?

Resources	Number	Percentage
Emergency Preparedness Training	42	66%
Technical Assistance from the Department of Education	40	63%
Evaluation of Existing Plans	34	53%
Resource Telephone Numbers	28	44%
E-mail Discussion Group	25	39%
Planning Guidelines/Standards	27	42%
Conflict Resolution Training	25	39%
Web Site	20	31%
Crisis Intervention Team Training	18	28%
Other	9	14%

**School Critical Incidents/
Emergency Planning
Survey Results
2000-2001**

1a. Does your school currently have a critical incident/emergency plan?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	60	97%
No	2	3%

1b. If you answered “Yes” above, what year did your school develop its plan?

Average Response: 1997

1c. When did you last review/revise your school plan?

Average Response: 1998

2. Did you have a team/group develop your school plan?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	55	89%
No	3	5%

3. What agencies/organizations have participated in your district’s planning process?

Agencies/Organizations	Number	Percentage
Law Enforcement	51	82%
Fire-Rescue Department	42	68%
Emergency Medical Services	36	58%
Emergency Management	35	56%
Parent Organizations	33	53%
Local Health Department	27	44%
Student Services Groups	18	29%
Local Media	17	27%
Local Hospital	16	26%
Mental Health Service Provider	16	26%
Planning Agencies	13	21%
Students/Student Organizations	12	19%
Social Service/Volunteer Organizations	11	18%
Other	11	18%

4. What hazards/incidents does your district critical incidents/emergency plan address?

Hazards/Incidents	Number	Percentage
Bomb Threat	60	97%
Fire	58	94%
Severe Weather	58	94%
Tornado	57	92%
Guns/Weapons	56	90%
Evacuation	55	89%
Hurricane	55	89%
Trespasser	53	85%
Injury/Illness	49	79%
Hostage	48	77%
Chemical Release	47	76%
Fatality/Suicide	45	73%
Kidnapping	44	71%
Bus Accident	44	71%
Riot/Disturbance	42	68%
Lightning	40	65%
Flood	34	55%
Terrorism	31	50%
Nuclear Accident	16	26%
Other	11	18%

5. Who participated in preparing your school critical incidents/emergency plan?

Participants	Number	Percentage
Administrators	55	89%
School Staff	50	81%
Teachers	50	81%
Custodians/Maintenance	30	48%
Parents	27	44%
Cafeteria Staff	13	21%
School Volunteers	12	19%
Other	12	19%
Bus Drivers	11	18%
Students	8	13%
Crossing Guards	0	0%

6. Does your school have a designated critical incident/emergency coordinator?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	48	77%
No	11	18%

7. What safety and security measures are generally available in the schools in your district?

Safety and Security Measures	Number	Percentage
First Aid Kit	60	97%
First Aid-Trained Staff/CPR	58	94%
Two-way Radios	57	92%
Visitor Badging	57	92%
Weather Radio	56	90%
Counselors/Psychologists/Social Workers	55	89%
Lockdown Procedures	52	84%
School Resource Officers	52	84%
Safety Committee	52	84%
Nurses	51	82%
Video Cameras on Buses	48	77%
Student/Staff ID Badges	44	71%
Conflict Resolution Programs	43	69%
Visitor Access Control Systems	41	66%
DARE Officer	41	66%
Perimeter Fencing	41	66%
Tornado Safe Area	40	65%
Proper Security Signage	38	61%
Mediation Programs	38	61%
Staff Training in Critical Incident Response	38	61%
Community Mental Health Agency	37	60%
Uniforms/Dress Code	37	60%
Drug Dogs	32	52%
School Safety Hotline	28	45%
Video Cameras	27	44%
Metal Detectors	16	26%
School Safety Officers	16	26%
Hurricane Shutters	11	18%
Intrusion Sensors	11	18%
Defibrillator (AED)	5	8%
X-Ray Inspection of Bags	1	2%
Building Plans Reviewed by Law Enforcement	0	0%
Other	0	0%

8. Does your school have a policy that requires posting the names and locations of individuals trained in First Aid/CPR?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	48	77%
No	14	23%

9. Does your school have a trained crisis response team?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes*	57	92%
No*	4	6%

10. Does your school have a post-event mental health/student services crisis intervention team?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes*	55	89%
No*	5	8%

11. Does the school maintain student emergency information on file?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	58	94%
No	4	6%

12. Is critical student information portable in the event of an evacuation?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	48	77%
No	11	18%

13. On average, how many critical incident/emergency drills or exercises does the school conduct each year?

Average Response: 12

14. Of those drills/exercises specified above, how many are fire drills?

Average Response: 9

*School that responded "Some," "Most," and "All" were interpreted as "Yes." Schools that responded "None" were interpreted as "No."

15. What type of events have been experienced in your school within the last three years?

Type of Events	Number	Percentage
Injury/Illness	42	68%
Severe Weather	29	47%
Trespasser	26	42%
Bus Accident	23	37%
Hurricane	23	37%
Bomb Threat	22	35%
Guns/Weapons	20	32%
Lightning	19	31%
Evacuation	14	23%
Fire	13	21%
Fatality/Suicide	9	15%
Tornado	7	11%
Chemical Release	4	6%
Other	4	6%
Flood	3	5%
Kidnapping	1	2%
Terrorism	1	2%
Riot/Disturbance	1	2%
Hostage Situation	1	2%
Nuclear Accident	0	0%

16. Does your school currently have a policy regarding cooperation with the news media during critical incidents?

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	55	89%
No	5	8%

17. What resources would assist your school in emergency preparedness?

Resources	Number	Percentage
Emergency Preparedness Training	43	69%
Crisis Intervention Team Training	40	65%
Resource Telephone Numbers	26	42%
Planning Guidelines/Standards	25	40%
Technical Assistance from the Department of Education	20	32%
Evaluation of Existing Plans	20	32%
Conflict Resolution	18	29%
Web Site	15	24%
E-mail Discussion Group	8	13%
Other	4	6%