Collaborative Emergency Management in Schools

Tom Kelley
Felicia McGee
Texas School Safety Center
Texas State University
Texas Schools and Districts

- Texas has 1,219 School Districts including Charter Schools
- 8,656 Schools/Campuses
- 673,140 total staff including teachers
- 5.23 Million Students
- Districts with enrollment from 12 to 215,615
- 20 Educational Service Centers covering 268,600 Square Miles
Threats and Hazards

Natural Hazards
- TORNADO
- FLOODING
- PANDEMIC

Technological Hazards
- TRAIN DERAILMENT
- CHEMICAL RELEASE
- INFRASTRUCTURE OR STRUCTURAL FAILURE

Human-Caused Threats—Adversarial
- VANDALISM
- ACTIVE SHOOTER
- TERRORISM
TEC 37.108

District EOP must address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery AND provide for:

• District employee training in responding to an emergency
• Mandatory school drills and exercises
• Coordination with TDSHS, local EM agencies, LE, Health Depts., Fire Depts. and provide for implementation of S&S Audit
Coordination or Collaboration

Collaboration is an action of people or groups with *different skills or competencies* for sharing meaning and needs of a process.

Coordination is the process of ensuring the execution of pre-determined plans.

In most cases, coordination requires collaboration. It is possible to collaborate and not provide coordination.
Who Should Schools Collaborate With?

- Local Emergency Management
- Law Enforcement
- Fire
- EMS
- Department of State Health Services
- Local/regional health departments
- Other districts
- Churches and volunteer organizations
Why Should We Collaborate (Example)

When XYZ School Receives a Bomb Threat their EOP said:

• Call Sheriff’s Office
• Announce Evacuation
• Evacuate Building
• Sheriff’s Office will send their bomb dog
• If bomb or device is discovered, bomb squad will remove it
Collaboration Could Help With These Questions?

• Is the threat credible?
• What should occur prior to or during evacuation?
• Where are you evacuating to?
• Does the S.O. have a bomb dog?
• Does the S.O. or area have a bomb squad?
• Who is going to search for a device at a district?
Collaborative Planning in Schools

Schools need help with emergency planning

- Safest areas for sheltering from tornadoes
- Secure areas to lockdown
- Equipment needs
- Communications systems
- Evacuation locations
- Specific response actions
  - Lockdown procedures
  - Bomb threat procedures
Collaborative Planning in Schools

• Schools need help conducting and evaluating preparedness drills
  ➢ Fire/evacuation
  ➢ Lockdown
  ➢ Shelter-in-place (HAZMAT)
  ➢ Tornado/severe weather
  ➢ Reverse Evacuation (from portables/outside)
Questions from Schools

• During a fire drill
  › Should we leave doors open or close them?
  › Should teachers take their purses/cell phones with them?

• During a bomb threat evacuation
  › Do we leave doors and/or windows open or closed?
  › Do we take our belongings with us?
  › How far should we evacuate to?
  › We normally evacuate next to parking lot – Is that a good idea?
  › Should we look for suspicious items before leaving?
Questions from Schools

• During a tornado or severe weather drill
  › Are hallways a good place to take shelter?
  › How far should we stay away from exterior doors?
  › Can we shelter in a cafeteria or library?

• During a lockdown
  › What if the door can’t be locked or secured?
  › Should we let a student in once the door has been locked?
Collaborate With Exercises

- Drills
- Table Top Exercises
- Functional Exercises
- Full Scale Exercises
ICS & NIMS Training Collaboration

Classroom training is much more effective than online training

- IS-100SCA: Introduction to the Incident Command for Schools
- IS-700 NIMS, An Introduction
- IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS-800.B National Response Framework
Training

- IS 362.a – Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for schools
- MGT 310 – Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- MGT 404 – Sports and Special Event Incident Management
Safety and Security Assessments (AUDITS)

TEC 37.108 Requires Texas School Districts and Public Junior College Districts:

• To adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan (EOP) for use in district facilities;

• To conduct a safety and security audit of district FACILITIES, at least once every three years;

• Report results to the district’s trustees
2011-2014 District Audit Report

- 59.4% of districts reported using district teams for audits (model procedure)
- 25.3% of districts reported using Education Service Centers (ESC)
- 15.4% of districts reported using insurance/risk management providers
- 10.4% of districts reported using first responders for audits
2011-2014 District Audit Report
EOP Development Coordination

• 82.2% coordination with law enforcement
• 78.1% coordination with fire departments
• 44.91% coordination with local emergency management agencies
• 27.9% coordination with local health departments
• 10.6% coordination with Texas Dept. of State Health Services
District Safety and Security Committees

TEC 37.109 requires that a school district establish a safety and security committee

Committee shall:

• Participate in developing and implementing a multi-hazard EOP
• Provide district with information in connection with safety & security audits
• Review each report submitted by the district to the TxSSC
Active Shooter Protective Actions

There are many protective actions being used in schools:

• A.L.I.C.E
• Run, Hide, Fight
• Avoid, Deny, Defend
• Lockdown, etc
Authorized Carry of Firearms in Schools

There are several programs available to schools to allow for authorized carry by qualified staff.

- School district commissioned peace officers
- School Resource Officers through MOU
- School Marshal program
- Designation of school employees authorized by the district
- Private security company commissioned personnel
Factors for Consideration

• Response time to active shooter incident
• Response resources
• Results from a threat analysis
• Close to major highways/transportation routes
• Community or area crime statistics
• Previous violent incidents
• Employees willing and qualified for the role
• Availability of required training
• Have you discussed with your risk management provider
Outcomes of Effective Collaboration

• Coordination of emergency operations
• Determining “best” procedures for a district
• Problem solving
• Resource identification
• Familiarity with facilities and procedures
• Relationship building
Schools Need Your Expertise
For additional information contact the Texas School Safety Center:

txssc.txstate.edu
1-877-304-2727