

The actions a school community takes in the initial moments of an incident are key to protecting lives and property.

General

- What is En Loco Parentis?
 - Doctrine that certain groups of people have the legal and ethical responsibility to “stand in the place of parents” for a child. Educators temporarily assume some of the parental rights and responsibilities for their students
- Why is ISCRS referred to as command responses?
 - A brief recognizable command that produces an immediate, predictable response by the entire school population is necessary in dynamic incidents or when more thorough communication is impossible.
- Why are these responses effective?
 - All staff will learn and practice the four (4) ISCRS responses. Each protocol incorporates adaptable elements for individual circumstances in an incident. Staff are authorized to adapt their response based on the safest reasonable course of action.
- How is the ISCRS program more sustainable?
 - The limited nature of the Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools (ISCRS) is trainable. A trainable protocol is a sustainable protocol. The program is available for free and the protocols are monitored and updated as new information in school emergency responses is made available.

Movement

- What does intentional movement look like?
 - Rather than one automatic process following a predetermined route, it is a series of shorter segments from one transition point to another.
 - At each transition an assessment is made, before proceeding. If conditions change, the plan can change. Speedy movement is less important than safe movement.
- What does “Options-based” mean for a teacher at the classroom level?
 - This means that teachers are authorized and expected to adapt responses to meet the immediate conditions in their surroundings.
- What is “Situational Awareness”?
 - Understanding the immediate conditions and being aware that changes in those conditions may require adapting the planned response.
- A simple example.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- A fire alarm is activated. A teacher prepares their class and then moves to the classroom door. At the door the teacher pauses to assess the hallway. Determining that it is safe they proceed to the hallway junction where the right hallway is filled with smoke. The teacher assesses and moves the class down the hall to the left. The teacher continues this movement from point to point until the class is safely out of the school by an alternative route

Evacuation – Reverse Evacuation – Hall Check – Lockdown (4) Command Responses

➤ Is this the whole emergency plan?

- These are just the initial responses designed to move a school population from normal educational activities to a safe condition.
- More complete planning will be needed to provide direction for the next steps in an emergency response. These should be included in your school EOPs that should meet the standards of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) framework.
- The 4 command responses are the only elements of the emergency plan that all school staff need to know and must be able to accomplish in their normal work context.
- The EOP may include additional annexes and responses for relocation, reunification, shelter in place etc.

Evacuation

➤ Do you take coats?

- Yes, if coats are readily accessible. ○ Students should not go to their locker or other remote location.

➤ Should students take other personal effects (backpacks, purses)?

- No, backpacks and purses are not critical to life and safety.

➤ Should we evacuate for a bomb threat?

- Automatic evacuations for bomb threats are not a recommended response in schools. This decision should consider the nature and credibility of the threat as well as coordination with local emergency response agencies.

➤ When is the last time a school caught on fire?

- According to the National Fire Protection Association, every year fire departments respond to an average 4980 fires in educational environments. These fires result in 1 death, 70 injuries and \$70 million dollars in property damage annually.

➤ When is the last time a student died in a fire?

- Fatal fires in schools are rare because of improvements in construction techniques, alarm/detection technology and mandatory monthly evacuation drills.

➤ I heard we should ignore the fire alarms because attackers always use it to get people out of the building.

- There has been 1 documented case of an intentionally triggered fire alarm in a school shooting.

Although this type of coordinated attack is exceedingly rare, evacuations are always cause for cautious movement.

- The Office of School Safety and Security recommends that all staff be notified of drills in advance. If a fire alarm goes off unexpectedly, staff will know to increase awareness as they evacuate and adapt as necessary.

➤ Can I use straps, bars, or other secondary locking devices to make my classroom door more secure?

- No, devices that do not meet both NFPA and ADA requirements are not approved for use in schools.

Reverse Evacuation

➤ Can we simply use our bells to signal an early end to recesses?

- In some cases, this is sufficient, however Reverse Evacuation will provide a more rapid movement outside normal operational processes, into the school and be used when rapid movement to a safe area is necessary.

➤ What about off campus students?

- Depending on the situation, they may be directed not to return to campus, or provision will need to be made to ensure they immediately return to the safety of the building.

➤ What types of incidents would trigger a reverse evacuation?

- Lightning/extreme weather, neighborhood police incidents, dangerous animals, etc

Hallcheck

➤ Is Hall Check the same as Shelter-in-Place?

- No, “Shelter-in-Place” is a directed response rather than an initial response. After completing a Hall Check (building is secure, students are accounted) the incident commander would issue directions specific to the type of threat. Specifications would be taken as a part of the “Shelter-in-Place process.

➤ Is a Hall Check the same as a “Soft LockDown”?

- No, to reduce confusion the term “soft lockdown” is not recommended.
- Hall Check is a distinct response action for threats that are potential or possible. Lockdown is for threats that are imminent or occurring.

➤ Is Hall check the same as a “security hold”?

- The standard terminology for K-12 schools in the state of Idaho is Hall Check.

- How is the “hallcheck” implemented for those schools with modular classrooms?
 - “Hallcheck” buys time in a safe condition to determine next steps, provides for an informed staff at a higher level of situational awareness, allows for detection of any potential threat and provides for the continuation of instruction regardless of school or campus location.
 - As noted “hallcheck” after initial response, is designed to be modified via announcement to meet the school needs and address the potential threat.
 - Expectation of additional specific action maybe developed as needed and as a part of the contingency planning for facilities that utilize modular classrooms.

Lockdown

- How is this different from Run, Hide, Fight?
 - Many of the principles are similar. They are translated to the K-12 environment where staff members cannot “run” and abandon students, where securing space is preferred to simply “hiding” (concealment vs. cover) and where fighting is viewed negatively.
- What are the expectations for students in Move, Secure Defend?
 - Students with adults are expected to follow staff instructions. Unaccompanied students will be encouraged to follow the MSD framework.
- What are the expectations of school staff?
 - Staff will be trained, encouraged and empowered to use the MSD as an options-based framework. “Situational Awareness” should guide the Lock Down decision-making process with the safety of their students and themselves as the goal.
- Can staff use improvised weapons to defend themselves?
 - Districts are recommended to affirmatively authorize staff to use any available means to protect themselves and their classes from imminent fatal harm.
- Are staff required to fight an attacker?
 - No, school staff are not required to fight an attacker
- Who can initiate a Lock Down?
 - The recommendation is that all school staff have both authority and means to activate the Lock Down procedure.
- How does a Lock Down End?
 - Law enforcement/building administration will unlock and open the door and announce that the incident/exercise is concluded.
 - In an incident L.E. will escort the occupants out of the building.
 - In the alternative and as required by unusual circumstances, a public address announcement by a known and authorized person, confirmed by a second known and authorized person may be used to modify or terminate a Lock Down.

Exercising and Drilling

- How and when should staff be notified?
 - Notification one week prior and again the day of the exercise will assure the staff is aware. Even though staff know the date and approximate time of the exercise, the day should proceed as usual (no special accommodations made for the exercise) to allow for a complete test of the capability of the response.
- Should parents be notified of exercises?
 - There is no requirement to notify parents, however a general notification of emergency response expectations is recommended.
 - Notification to parents should be made in the same manner that would be used in the case of an actual incident with the addition of verbiage indicating an exercise/drill is in progress. This will help develop notification capability for the school staff.
- How important are drills?
 - All threat/all hazard-based drills are a must and should be done multiple times a year.
 - Conducting drills helps administrators, teachers and students to be prepared.
 - Repetition allows for those being trained to be able to perform better under stress.
 - Conducting drills also allows for the school staff and students to analyze what they need to work on to improve and better understand why such drills are being conducted.

Additional

- The office of school safety has said you're doing it right what are you doing?
 - In March of 2018 a valley wide school safety committee was formed which consisted of representatives from each law enforcement agency, fire agency and school district throughout Canyon and Ada County, emergency management personnel and other state entities focused on learning what threat/hazard based training each school district was using, working on standardizing procedures by developing training for all threats/all hazards events that truly translated into a k-12 school setting.
 - Over 9 months the committee developed the 4 command responses to deal with internal and external threats/hazards which is easier to understand and train to educators and students so that they can be as successful as possible when/if they must act.
- If your program was used to develop a baseline for school safety in Idaho, would it translate to other districts?
 - The “4 command responses” were developed as a foundation piece to build into any schools EOP. The 4 command responses can be implemented and used in any jurisdiction/school district regardless of size or resources available to a specific school district.
- What is the minimum acceptable school safety plan?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- There is no set standard I know of but every school should have EOPs to deal with specific situations, threats or hazards and every school should conduct threat assessments when there is a safety concern within a school (acts of aggression, threats made etc) followed by a plan to help deal with the situation or resolve the situation.
 - But beyond that, staff and students should be provided the knowledge and training on what to look for (indicators), ways to be safer and more aware and how they can go about telling someone when they see something that is of a concern.
- How important are SRO's in the school safety arena?
- SROs are key to school safety. Their presence in the school is a deterrent, their interaction with staff and students build rapport, they are able to handle criminal offenses and other safety/security issues in a timely manner and also work with the staff to help and mentor the students.
 - They are there as the first line of defense but the SRO job has evolved greatly over the years to include educating students and staff on trends and issues that negatively impact our youth and communities as well as providing information on ways to try and prevent our youth from making choices that could negatively impact their future.
 - SROs have also become mentors, counselors, and positive adult figures in many young people's lives.
- How are SRO's different from other police officers?
- SROs look and are trained just like any other officer but play a bit of a different role since they work within a school environment and work closely with school districts, school staff and students each and every day.
 - SRO's should be hand selected or should be a tested position within their law enforcement agency. The school district should be involved in the process since the SRO will be working in the school setting and become part of the school admin team.
- What training should SRO's have?
- SROs are fully trained police officers.
 - Beyond their normal required training they should be required to attend an SRO specific course such as the NASRO SRO Course, Crisis Intervention Training, Juvenile Investigative Course; Threat based tactical training, Trauma Care Training, de-escalation training and any other training that would help them to be as successful as possible in their day-to-day responsibilities working in a school environment.
- What training should all school employees have?
- Beyond all the training that is already required of teachers to educate and interact with our youth, teachers should also be provided ongoing all threats/all hazards-based training (knowing what to do when the safety of their students is a concern), first aid/CPR, crisis intervention training, de-escalation training and other training that would help them to be the best at what they do.
- How has school safety changed over the years?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- School Safety has evolved greatly over the years due to the increasing number of tragic events that have occurred throughout the country.
- Over the year's schools have become much safer and the staff/students have become more aware, more knowledgeable and better trained due to the collaboration between schools and first responders.
- In addition, parents and communities have voiced the importance of school safety and for schools and first responders to do all they can do to provide a safe environment for teachers to teach and students to learn.
- Beyond the training provided, school districts are building schools with safety/security in mind and schools are being assessed on how safe they are with recommendations on how to improve safety/security within some of the older schools