

Sustaining Safety and Security Plans

Bradley County and Cleveland City School Districts
State of Tennessee



Sustaining Safety/Security Plans

- Bradley County and Cleveland City TN School Districts
- Location: Southeast Tennessee
- Estimated Student Population: 15,000
- 24 campus facilities, 2 administrative facilities
- City and county governments with two mayors, 14 county commissioners and 7 city council members
- Estimated county population – 110,000
- County
 - Bradley County Fire and Rescue Department
 - Bradley County Sheriff's Department
- City
 - Cleveland Fire Department
 - Cleveland Police Department
- Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Homeland Security – East TN Regional Office

Objective: Create A Safe School Environment

- Contracted with Risk Solutions International LLC, a leading provider of Safe Schools and Emergency and Crisis Management services to K – 12 and higher education clients to:
 - Conduct Security & Vulnerability Assessments [SVAs] for all school facilities
 - Identify security vulnerabilities, gaps, strengths, and best practices
 - Examine physical interior of buildings, perimeter/parking lots and surrounding areas

Objective: Create A Safe School Environment

- Security & Vulnerability Assessments [SVAs] evaluated:
 - Emergency preparedness and evacuation, shelter-in-place and lockdown procedures
 - Vehicular movement and parking lots
 - Lighting – interior and exterior
 - Security hardware and alarm systems
 - Guards/security controls
 - Building access and egress
 - Policies, procedures, and programs
 - Security sensitive areas [mechanical, electrical, computer, holding areas, chemical storage, remote buildings and offices]
 - Communications systems
 - Site integration with local emergency support services [law enforcement, fire, EMA]

Safety/Security Activities Implemented

- Hired a Public School Safety and Security Coordinator [PSSC] shared between the two school districts [job description attached] who completed or facilitated completion of the following:
- Assisted Risk Solutions International in conducting SVAs on all 25 school facilities
- Discussed SVA findings one-on-one with each campus principal
- Made follow-up visits to:
 - Encourage good or best practices
 - Determine if abnormal condition, weakness or safety hazard has been corrected
- Implemented an pre-test on-line survey of entire school staff as to their knowledge of emergency preparedness and actions to take in the event of an emergency
- Reviewed and revised both school districts School Safety Plans bringing them into compliance with National Incident Management System [NIMS]; district reviews done in collaboration with district personnel responsible for Safe and Drug Free Schools AND local emergency responders [law enforcement, fire, and EMA]

Safety/Security Activities Implemented

- Converted both district School Safety Plans to an online version allowing for easy access through restricted passwords and ease in making future revisions
- Presented the online district safety plans to both Boards of Education
- Presented the online district safety plans to both groups of school administrators
- Met with both local law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue personnel and Emergency Management Agency staff to get their input into the safety plans
- Worked with each district administrator in upgrading safety and security equipment on each campus
- Produced a School Emergency Information brochure for all parents and guardians
- Produced and distributed a Classroom Emergency Procedures Guide flipchart to every classroom teacher, principal, and other school staff
- Presently delivering workshops on Emergency Procedures to every school faculty and staff

Safety/Security Activities Implemented

- Represents the two districts at quarterly meetings of the Local Emergency Planning Council
- Has responsibility for the annual updates of the School District Safety Plans and reports these to the TN Department of Education
- Helped establish School Level Safety Teams

Safety/Security Activities Sustained

- Public School Safety & Security Coordinator position has the verbal commitment for being sustained as the salary is shared by the two school districts
- School Level Safety Teams are in place and trained as to their responsibilities for bi-annual SVAs of the schools
- Purchased and upgraded safety and security equipment that are now operational; any recurring charges fall to the two districts
- Campus principals now conduct SVAs bi-annually as part of their annual evaluation session with the Director of Schools
- Online versions of the School District and School Level Safety Plans are updated annually

Safety/Security Activities Sustained

- Both law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue personnel, and EMA staff now have access to the following:
 - Each school level safety plan
 - School buildings layouts
 - School emergency contact numbers
 - Emergency utility shut-off guide
 - Emergency drill schedules
- School districts have updated online District Safety Plans which will be updated annually and forwarded to the TN Department of Education
- Back-up system for all drill logs for review by fire inspector

Safety/Security Activities Sustained

- Upgraded weather alert systems
- Two repeaters purchased with two frequencies for the two districts with dedicated public safety channel monitored 911 Center
- Every school office now has mobile radio system enabling inter-school communication and between the two districts
- 72 portable radios used by administrators for immediate contact disregarding power interruptions or clogged telephone lines
- Regular testing of equipment for operational efficiency

Contact Information

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