

PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS SCHOOLS

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires State Educational Agencies to establish a school choice policy for students who attend a "persistently dangerous school" as defined by the states.

The Oregon proposed definition of a "persistently dangerous school" is based on a maximum number of expulsions for weapons, violent behavior or violent criminal offenses for any three consecutive years. The maximum number of expulsions allowed for each year is determined by each school's enrollment.

For a school designated as "persistently dangerous", parents may exercise their right to have their child attend a safe public school within the local educational agency.

In addition, the policy establishes an Individual Student Option. Any student, while in or on their school grounds, who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense (as defined by ORS) must be allowed to transfer to a safe school within the district.

If you would like a copy of Oregon's proposed definition, contact Oscar Vega, at the Salem Keizer School District, at 503-399-3070 or by e-mail at: vega_oscar@salkeiz.k12.or.us

For more information on the NCLB Act visit www.nochildleftbehind.gov



OSSOA Summer Conference

The OSSOA Summer Conference will be held again this year in Bend, at the Inn of the Seventh Mountain on Tuesday, July 22, 2003.

This year's conference promises to have a number of interesting topics including workers' comp issues, playground safety, and the persistently dangerous school legislation.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions about the conference, please contact OSSOA President, Traci Rees at 503-625-8174 or by email at trees@sherwood.k12.or.us.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The OSSOA Summer Conference is scheduled for July 22, 2003 at the Inn of the Seventh Mountain in Bend.

Registration materials will be sent soon!



Sheltering In-Place and 72-Hour Preparedness

In recent news reports, federal officials have urged citizens to designate a room where they can shelter in-place and have on hand three days' worth of water and food in case of a strike with chemical, biological or radiological weapons.

The combination of the 72-hour preparedness and the shelter in-place recommendations, which when taken separately are not new, has led to some concerns regarding the need to shelter in-place for 72 hours in the case of a threat.

According to Scott Porter, Director of the Office of Consolidated Emergency Management in Washington County, "It's intended to provide short-term protection from airborne chemical, biological, and some radiological threats. The shelter is not, nor is it intended to be, absolutely

airtight. Its purpose is to limit...contact with lethal quantities of the chemical/biological/radiological agent."



A flyer regarding Shelter in-place procedures can be downloaded from the Office of Consolidated Emergency Management website at: www.ocem.org. Click on the "Publications" tab then select publication #20 "Shelter in Place". A Public Safety Fact Sheet suitable for posting in public places can also be downloaded. On the home page, click on the ATAC-Emergency Preparedness Fact Sheet or ATAC-Family Preparedness Fact Sheet.

A FAQ website can also be found at www.hopkins-biodefense.org/prep.html

Homeland Security Alerts

There has been much news coverage and concern surrounding procedures for Homeland Security Alerts. The alerts range from Green (low alert) to Red (severe alert). The National School Boards Association (NSBA) has issued a recommendation that school districts follow the advice of local emergency planners in whether to close school. They also emphasize that each school district should have a crisis plan developed locally with the input of law enforcement, fire

Homeland security is a community issue and your response and plans should be a community effort.

departments, health care providers and local government.

Links to information resources can be found on the OSBA web site at www.osba.org/hotopics/crisismgmt/crisis.htm. The Red Cross has also developed a flyer suitable for posting in schools or distributing to staff. A link to this flyer can be found on the above OSBA web site or on the Red Cross web site at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/hsas/schools.pdf.

Clearing up the Confusion

OSSOA Executive Committee members and Nancy Coursey, the OSBA liaison have recently received a number of inquiries regarding recent email and postal communication to members from an organization called "Oregon School Safety Association" (OSSA).



Since the names of our organization and this organization are so similar, there has apparently been some confusion as to whether the two are affiliated in any way. Oregon School Safety Officers' Association is not affiliated with OSSA.

If you have questions about correspondence you have received from OSSA, you may contact them directly.

Shelter-In-Place Training

Salem-Keizer School District has Shelter-In-Place (SIP) training videos available for loan. The video is 17 minutes long and deals with a release from a chemical plant and outlines the SIP procedures for actions at home and school.

The school SIP procedures involve the students in every classroom using plastic and duct tape to seal off their doors, windows and HVAC system. If you are interested in borrowing one of these SIP training kits, contact Oscar Vega at Salem Keizer School district by email at vega_oscar@salkeiz.k12.or.us.

McKay Emergency Exercise Video

Just a reminder that the McKay High School Emergency Exercise video that was filmed on May 5, 2001 is still available. This video is just over 7 minutes long and outlines the procedures involving school staff and law enforcement as they responded to an active shooter situation.

This is a great, short video to show your principals and administrators as an "attention-getter" to underline the need for planning and practice.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to view this footage, contact Oscar Vega at Salem-Keizer School District to borrow the videotape. He can be reached by e-mail at:

vega_oscar@salkeiz.k12.or.us



Police subdue and arrest suspect during active shooter exercise.

New Website

The Department of Homeland Security has launched a new web site at WWW.READY.GOV.

The web site has links to preparedness resources including The American Red Cross and FEMA. You can also download an adobe acrobat (PDF) document of the brochure "Preparing Makes Sense. Get Ready Now." which is suitable for distribution to staff or the community.

"Terrorism forces us to make a choice. We can be afraid. Or we can be ready."
Secretary Tom Ridge

AOL "Safety Clicks!" Campaign

In October, 2002, AOL and the National School Boards Foundation (NSBF) created a national campaign for online safety called "Safety Clicks!" The service includes an educational instant messaging robot that will chat with and answer questions about online safety.

Some of the safety tips offered on the site includes "If someone says or does something online that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable, tell an adult right away." or "Never give out your name, home address, age, phone number or school name—or any personal information—to strangers online."

A web-based version of the robot can be found at www.safetyclicks.com, as well as a downloadable brochure with online safety tips for parents and children and additional resources for families and educators. The website also includes links to kid safe search engines and research web sites.

AOL has also distributed a 7-minute video in collaboration with the Cartoon Network featuring Dexter and Dee Dee, stars of "Dexter's Laboratory" which outlines six tips for online safety.

QUAKEX 2003

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) is conducting a statewide earthquake/tsunami drill beginning on April 2, 2003. The drill scenario involves a 9.0 earthquake.

April 2 and 3 will involve the first 48 hour response activities to test emergency plans and procedures. An additional exercise on April 8 and 9 will deal with the recovery aspects of emergency plans.

If your district is interested in participating or for more information, you can access the following OEM website: http://www.osp.state.or.us/oem/programs/earthquake/quakex%202003/quakex_2003.htm



Oregon School Safety Officers' Association

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School Bus Safety Report

A report released last June by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) entitled "The Relative Risks of School Travel: A National Perspective and Guidance for Local Community Risk Assessment" says that children are at far more risk traveling to and from school in private passenger vehicles - especially if a teenage driver is involved - than in school buses. The report also indicates that bicycling and walking also place students at greater risk than traveling by school bus.

The report shows that every year, about 800 school-age children are killed in motor vehicle crashes during normal school travel hours (weekday mornings and afternoons during school months) accounting for about 14 percent of the child deaths that occur on the nation's roadways. Of these deaths, only about 2 percent are school-bus related, while 74 percent occur in private passenger vehicles. More than half of all deaths of children between age 5 and 18 occur during normal school travel hours when a teen-ager



is driving. The dramatic difference in risk suggests that more can be done to manage and re-

duce those dangers, the committee said. School districts should facilitate travel by safer modes while working to improve others that are less safe. For example, walking and bicycling could be made safer by improving sidewalks and protection at street crossings as well as building more bike paths. Increasing the distance that students must live from school to qualify for school-bus service may save money but it also shifts children to travel modes that are less safe.

Copies of the report are available for free on the Internet at www.nap.edu. For more school bus safety information, go to www.schoolbusinfo.org.