

Message from the President Colin Croas, Hillsboro School District

It gives me great pleasure to assume the role of President of the Oregon School Safety Officers Association in these times when we are all facing such extreme challenges. Budget shortfalls, increased class sizes, employee cutbacks and general uncertainty regarding the status of education in this great state have us all taking on greater responsibility with less resources. Our commitment to share our expertise, resolve difficulties and find mutual solutions is what makes this organization even more important now than in past years. Relying upon our open communications and working with one another, we can find better ways to protect our staff, students and the public that make up our school communities.

It saddens me to inform you that Terry Long, President Elect, has tendered resignation, and dropped her membership in OSSOA. Her career has undertaken a major change and she felt unable to dedicate the time necessary to properly serve the association. We all extend her our best wishes and gratefully thank her for her services as Secretary last year.

We've received some outstanding feedback from the membership regarding last year's conference and we are trying to bring together another meaningful conference for next July. Your suggestions for speakers, conference location and general issues have given us some great ideas for the agenda. One issue we will need to address is the replacement of Terry. Our by-laws do not specifically address the issue other than to say that all officers must be elected by the general membership and cannot be appointed. We are open to suggestions on how we should proceed. We also want to encourage members from smaller school districts to consider taking a more active role by serving a term as an officer. Please give this issue some consideration and come prepared to discuss it at the next conference. I hope you all have a safe and successful school year.

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OSSOA LOGO CONTEST!

OSSOA is *still* looking for a logo! OSSOA is sponsoring a logo design contest among member school district students. We would like a logo suitable for use on letterhead, newsletters and other correspondence. There is a \$500 prize for the school district submitting the winning design.

Please let your district's students know about this opportunity to have their work showcased for a worthy cause and to earn \$500 for their school at the same time.

Rules: 1) One submission per member district (You will need to choose a local winner.) 2) Submissions must be made on 8 1/2" x 11" media with the name, school name, and district of entrant. 3) Submissions must be made by April 1, 2004 to Nancy Coursey at OSBA. 4) Finalists will be chosen and displayed at the 2004 conference for a final vote among attendees. 5) The winning entry will earn \$500 for the submitting district.



Meet your new Board Member!

The newest OSSOA Executive Board Member, Sara Simmons, was appointed at the summer conference in Bend this past July. Sara will serve as Secretary to the organization this coming year.

Sara has worked at Clackamas Community College for the past twelve years, serving in such positions as Research & Planning Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Dean of College Services. Sara assumed Risk Management duties in 1997 and currently works in the Human Resource office as a Compensation/Database/Risk Specialist. Like many OSSOA members, Sara wears many hats in addition to her Risk Management/Safety duties!



Of course, Sara also has a number of years experience with Safety Committee as both an employee and management representative and has taken a number of Insurance, Risk Management and OSHA Training courses.

The OSSOA Executive Board and membership are excited to welcome Sara and look forward to her positive influence in the organization and with the planning of future summer conferences.

Sara earned her Office Specialist Certificate in 1991 from Clackamas Community College and is currently working on her B.S. degree in Management at Marylhurst University.

Other volunteer and elected positions that Sara has filled in-

clude the Clackamas County Jobs Plus Implementation Council (1993-2000), Clackamas County Economic Development Commission (1996-2003), and CCC Association of Classified Employees as Building Rep, Membership Secretary, Recorder, Vice Chair and Treasurer.

Sara can be reached by phone at (503) 657-6958 x2594 or by email at saras@clackamas.edu.

New Web Site

The state of Virginia's education and health departments have joined together to offer a new web site for educators promoting school violence prevention. The site is called the "Virginia Best Practices in School-Based Violence Prevention" and while aimed at school districts in Virginia, it offers a number of site links and resources that would be useful to any district.

Access the site at
www.preventviolenceva.org



Colin Croas, President and Sara Simmons, Secretary

New School Safety Guide

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Secret Service have released a new guide titled "Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates."

This publication is available for downloading from the U.S. Department of Education web site in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) and Microsoft Word formats.

MS Word: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/threatassessmentguide.doc>
PDF: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS/threatassessmentguide.pdf>
Contact 1-877-4-ED-PUBS to check on print availability

What's new with Michael Dorn?

Many of you remember Michael Dorn from a phenomenal presentation he did in Portland about weapons in schools, sponsored by Marsh, USA. At the time, Mr. Dorn worked with a school district in Georgia. Mr. Dorn now works for Georgia Emergency Management as a school safety specialist and has been busy on other projects including writing a new book called "Weakfish: Bullying through the eyes of a child" and starting a non-profit group, Safe Havens International.

For more information on the book or to see what other things Mr. Dorn has been doing, see his new website www.weakfish.org or www.safehavensinternational.org. There is also a short clip of that weapons demonstration on the website, for those of you who missed it.

Emergency Management Training

FEMA offers a number of emergency management training opportunities through the Emergency Management Institute. These classes are held in Emmitsburg, MD and all travel and lodging is reimbursed through FEMA for accepted participants. For more information, see

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/>.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/emiSchool/>

If you are unable to travel, there are also a number of self study courses available:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/courses/offcampus/nfa-off3.shtm>

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

<http://lstrng1.fema.gov/LearningSpace5/Program/UI/Main/Themes/Kendall/Main.asp>

NIOSH Publication

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has released a document called "Protecting Building Environments from Airborne Chemical, Biological, or Radiological Attacks." It has some great information on protecting your HVAC systems from airborne hazardous materials. The report can be found at www.cdc.gov/niosh/bldvent/2002-139.html.



Playground Safety Tips

The National Center for Education Statistics has sponsored a publication called "Planning Guide for Maintaining School Facilities." In that publication, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/maintenance/preface.asp#pref>, there is a checklist of the "Dirty Dozen" in playground safety pitfalls.

1. Improper protective surfacing - The surface or ground under and around playground equipment should be soft enough to cushion a fall. Improper surfacing material under playground equipment is the leading cause of playground-related injuries. Hard surfaces such as concrete, blacktop, packed earth, or grass are not acceptable in fall zones. In fact, a fall onto one of these hard surfaces could be life-threatening.

2. Inadequate fall zone - A "fall zone" or "use zone" is the area around and beneath playground equipment where a child might fall. A fall zone should be covered with protective surfacing material and extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions from the edge of stationary play equipment such as climbers and chin-up bars. Swings require a much larger fall zone.

3. Protrusion and entanglement hazards - A protrusion hazard is a piece of hardware that might be capable of impaling or cutting a child if a child should fall against it.

4. Entrapment in openings - Enclosed openings on playground equipment must be checked for head entrapment hazards.

5. Insufficient equipment spacing - Improper spacing between pieces of play equipment can cause overcrowding of a play area, which may create hazards. Fall zones for equipment that is higher than 24 inches above the ground cannot overlap.



6. Trip hazards - Tripping hazards are created by play structure components (or other items) on the playground.

7. Lack of supervision - Playground supervision directly relates to the overall safety of the environment. A play area should be designed so that it is easy for a caregiver to observe children at play.

8. Age-inappropriate activities - Children's developmental needs vary greatly from age 2 to age 12. In an effort to provide a challenging and safe play environment for all ages, playground equipment must be appropriate for the age of the intended user.

9. Lack of maintenance - A systematic preventive maintenance program is required to keep playgrounds in "safe" condition. There should not be missing, broken, or worn-out components, and all hardware should be secure. The wood, metal, or plastic should not show signs of fatigue or deterioration. All parts should be stable, without apparent signs of loosening. The surfacing material also must be maintained, and signs of vandalism should be noted, remedied, and subsequently monitored.

10. Pinch, crush, shearing, and sharp-edge hazards - Components in the play equipment should be inspected to make sure there are no sharp edges or points that could cut skin.

11. Platforms without guardrails - Elevated surfaces such as platforms, ramps, and bridge ways should have guardrails that will prevent accidental falls.

12. Equipment not recommended for the public - Accidents associated with equipment such as heavy swings and free-swinging ropes have resulted in the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommending that they not be used in playgrounds.

Oregon School Safety Officers' Association

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**Interested in serving
on the OSSOA Board?**

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact Nancy Coursey, OSBA Liaison, by email at ncoursey@osba.org.



Safety and Health Web Sites

NFPA Chemical Hazard Labels—<http://www.orcbs.msu.edu/chemical/nfpa/nfpa.html>

MSDS Locator on the Web—<http://www.ilpi.com/msds/index.html>

ATU School Bus Safety & Links—<http://www.atu.org/Schoolbus.htm>

Typing Injury (Repetitive Strain Injuries) FAQ Home Page—<http://www.tifaq.org/>

Mobbing—Emotional Abuse in the American workplace—<http://www.mobbing-usa.com/>

Office of Personnel Mgmt Work/Life Prog—<http://www.opm.gov/ehs/workplac/index.asp>

NIOSH Traumatic Occupational Injury/Violence—<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/injury/traumaviolence.html>

UCLA Labor Occupational Health Program—<http://www.losh.ucla.edu/>

NADCA-National Air Duct Cleaners Association—<http://www.nadca.com/>

American Conference of Gov't Industrial Hygienists—<http://www.acgih.org/home.htm>

Silicon Valley Ergonomics Institute—<http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/~svei/>

American Industrial Hygiene Association—<http://www.aiha.org/>

Int'l Code Council Building Safety—<http://www.iccsafe.org/>

American Biological Safety Association—<http://www.absa.org/>

National Environmental Health Assn—<http://www.neha.org/>

Rebuild America-Green Buildings—<http://www.rebuild.gov/>

American National Standards Institute—<http://www.ansi.org/>

US National Library of Medicine—<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>

UC-Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program—<http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~lohp/>

