

Accomplishments of Various County Commissions in Indiana

-Networking: This is possibly the most important reason to form a County Safety Commission. Frequent collaboration with local resources improves the trust among agencies that makes everything else possible. This further enables the information sharing that is so important when reviewing safety plans, and responsibilities during a crisis. Recent legislation provides for further information sharing amongst schools, law enforcement, and the court system as well.

-Testing safety plans: Several counties have conducted exercises, where school safety plans are reviewed through discussion of the duties and expectations of school administrators and first responders. This leads to better understanding of each professional's responsibilities during a crisis.

-Safety audits: One county formed multidisciplinary teams to conduct safety audits (inside and outside) of all the schools in a county. This led to better numbering of exits, and an opportunity for first responders to learn the layout of the school if they ever have to respond during a crisis.

-Improvement of fire evacuation procedures: In case of fire, one school's plan inadvertently called for the evacuation of students to an area directly above potentially hazardous gas lines. Another school discovered they were evacuating to an area that would block fire truck access to an area of the school. These evacuation routes have been successfully updated.

Other Accomplishments Include:

- Created school hotline
- Exits marked with standardized numbers of emergency response
- Corporation wide information system
- Countywide standardization of emergency preparedness plans
- Created active shooter training video
- Ongoing active shooter response practice for local law enforcement
- First responders are given tours of schools to familiarize them with the buildings
- Countywide directory of school officials and first responders
- Collaboration regarding cameras (costs and placement)
- Recommendation made for hall monitors and visitor badges
- Staff members trained to greet or report unauthorized visitors
- Shared School Resource Officers amongst corporations

- Annual review of crisis response team and equipment
- Radios provided for communication with staff supervising outdoors activities (recess, PE)
- Proactive communication between agencies and schools
- Ongoing safety and security assessments
- Conducted table top exercises
- Crisis kits created to assist staff during emergencies
- Interagency information sharing agreement
- Reviewed transportation issues with county/state highway departments and law enforcement