



# Information Bulletin

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## **Planning Resources and Considerations: School Violence Emergencies**

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In the wake of the tragedy in Colorado, with subsequent cases as recent as the shooting in Pennsylvania, the topic of disaster planning for school emergencies takes on new meaning and urgency. Many agencies have already done outstanding work in developing such response plans. Clearly, effective plans for incidents of this nature are the result of a partnership between local law enforcement, public safety, emergency medical responders, school police departments, and school administrators.

In response to requests for planning resources, many agencies have prepared valuable guidance documents to assist you in development of these plans. This Information Bulletin provides you with some resources you may wish to consider. This list is by no means exhaustive or exclusive—there may be other valuable resources available as well.

- ❖ Crisis Management and Response: The California Department of Education provides several guidance documents in their “Safe Schools” program. These include reference to Crisis Preparedness and Violence Prevention. These may be accessed at [www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/)
- ❖ The U.S. Department of Education has a wealth of information available to agencies, including violence prevention, school safety and crisis planning guides. [www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/edpicks.jhtml?src=qc](http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/edpicks.jhtml?src=qc)
- ❖ The Keep Schools Safe Program offers a series of articles pertaining to prevention and response to school emergencies. Their information is available at [www.keepschoolssafe.org](http://www.keepschoolssafe.org).
- ❖ The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators offers valuable information on Threat and Risk Assessment. Their website requires authorization as a law enforcement officer to access portions of their website that contains sensitive guidance documents. [www.iaclea.org](http://www.iaclea.org)

- ❖ The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), training branch for OES, offers several emergency response and officer safety courses for law enforcement and public safety agencies. Specific to school emergency planning is the course entitled “Multi-Hazard Safety Program for Schools.” In addition to training and exercises services, CSTI may assist with law enforcement response plan development. [www.csti.ca.gov](http://www.csti.ca.gov)
- ❖ The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certify several courses relating to school emergency response, including “Active Shooter Response.” Their current course catalog may be accessed at:  
<http://www.post.ca.gov/catalog/cataloghtml.asp>
- ❖ The Federal Bureau of Investigation has several pertinent documents, including the “The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective” available at:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/school/school2.pdf>
- ❖ The Harvard Business School has a research document, “Your Crisis Response Plan: Ten Essential Elements”, which includes an assessment tool to evaluate your existing plans:  
<http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/3124.html>
- ❖ The National Tactical Officer Association has training opportunities dealing with patrol response to active shooters.  
[http://www.training-classes.com/course\\_hierarchy/courses/7606\\_Patrol\\_Response\\_to\\_Active\\_Shooters.php](http://www.training-classes.com/course_hierarchy/courses/7606_Patrol_Response_to_Active_Shooters.php)
- ❖ LLIS.Gov offers a School Emergency Planning website. This site houses a wealth of resources on the topic of School Emergency Planning, including after-action reports, documents, templates, plans, related links, recent news, upcoming conferences, and more. The subscription link can be accessed at:  
<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/DynamicPage.cfm?pageTitle=School%20Emergency%20Planning>

## SUMMARY

With the frequency of school violence incidents increasing world-wide, along with other threats of violence, bomb threats and weapons related offenses, we are reminded of the need to review, update and exercise local plans and protocols for decision-making and leadership related to these situations. Consider scheduling an exercise to determine the effectiveness of those plans. It may be opportune to review your policy and procedures relating to an “active shooter” response in your jurisdiction, and ensure your officers are properly trained and equipped to face these unusual events. It is also a good time to review the availability of local and adjacent area bomb squads and explosive detection resources, as well as Mutual Aid forces available to your agency. Many threats cross the jurisdictional lines of cities, counties or districts, so regional information sharing links will prove valuable in the planning and response phases to any school crisis or emergency, as well as updating plans, and points of contact.