



WSSCA

Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association WSSCA NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2011

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CONCEALED CARRY AND WISCONSIN SCHOOLS, PART II.

There has been extraordinary concern about the recent passing of Wisconsin's Concealed Carry law (CCW Act 35). I wrote about the law in last month's newsletter and I received so many inquiries that I thought I should add more this month. First, I want to remind everyone that they **must** meet with their legal representatives before making any decisions about this law.

Next, it is important to reiterate that the law regarding firearms **on school grounds** has not changed - it is still illegal to carry firearms on school grounds even if a person is licensed in the state (948.605). Also, there is no **requirement** to post signs prohibiting firearms on a school building, as this is already included in the guidelines given each applicant for a permit. Additionally, the law allows certified citizens to carry other weapons like electronic stun guns, clubs, and knives (other than switchblades) **but not on school premises** (946.61).

The real problem for schools appears to be the definition of "school grounds." It is the interpretation of a Department of Justice (DOJ) attorney that school grounds means "a building that houses grades 1-12 **only**" Pre-school and kindergarden **only** facilities are **not** included in the prohibited areas of the law. Therefore, if an administrator wishes to ban guns and weapons from that type of building, it is recommended that signs banning them be posted. Also, buildings that support the school or district are not likely to be covered as "school grounds." For example, a maintenance garage a mile from the closest school is not covered. Even more complicated is a garage located on school "premises" ("out back" from the school itself but on the same land).

The interpretation is not clear in the current wording of the law. In fact, there is so much ambiguity in the law that those closest to the enforcement of it agree that it will take time for these matters to be worked out through the courts or amended legislation.

Since 49 states allow CCW, I thought would ask my colleagues from around the country to relay any unusual experiences or horror stories they might have had. I received responses from several states, and no one had any such story to tell. "In Colorado, everyone carries a gun, so this is no big deal for our schools," wrote one school security chief. "We've had the law for about 7 years now and I can't recall any noteworthy incidents," wrote a Pennsylvania school security director. "Licensed citizens are allowed to carry firearms in schools in California. They are not the ones we are worried about," wrote a school law enforcement officer. "Florida has no problems." The other responses were similiar - much ado about nothing, they all said. Let's hope they are right.

I can't say we won't have issues in Wisconsin, of course, but I believe this matter will be a distraction to our schools for some time. Therefore, we security folks will have to find a way to contain this so that it does not distract administrators from their primary mission of educating students. That's what we do. Remember our motto: Education First-Safety Always.

WSSCA's 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, February 27-28, at the Kalahari.

Watch for details on the program agenda and registration info later this month.

End of the Year Reminders, by Al Behnke, Green Bay, WSSCA's Second Vice-President.

I recently attended a school safety conference where Paul Timm, president of RETA Security, was the presenter. Paul is a great speaker and an old friend to WSSCA. He provided many of his safety and security thoughts and I have added a few of my own.

ICE – “In Case of Emergency” is something that should be on everyone’s cell or smartphone. Free applications are available for download for Smartphones. Putting this information (ph #, etc.) under "ICE" in your cell phone provides emergency personnel with valuable information when needed most. Send an e-mail reminder to staff asking them to enter their information, too.

Staff Skills Survey – See attached sample – feel free to modify and use. Use this tool to survey your staff to learn the many valuable assets your staff can bring in times of emergency. One of the first steps of getting what you need is understanding what you have.

Social Networking – Staff should only correspond with students through their school account. “Fan Pages” can be set up on Face book for a variety of school groups to network. The advantage of the fan page is that all correspondence is among the entire group. This protects all.

Smoke Detectors – "Fall back" is a reminder for all staff to replace the batteries on their smoke detectors. They should ensure the detectors are working and discuss evacuation procedures with their children. At the same time, batteries for Carbon Monoxide (CO2) detectors should be checked. Encourage anyone who does not have CO2 detectors to install them – already this fall we have seen several close calls. Carbon Monoxide is called "the silent killer" for a reason.

MSDS Sheets – This would be another good time to remind/reinforce staff they cannot bring chemicals into the workplace – including household chemicals. All chemicals in the workplace require Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to be on file. Inform staff where MSDS information can be found in your district or building along with other emergency information.

Fire Drills – Make them more realistic but advise staff in advance before you would incorporate changes into your drills. For example, hold back a student during a drill to see if they are reported missing. Too often, staff become complacent during drills and they become a routine out and in. Changes in the routine will keep staff thinking about student accountability at all times. Another suggestion to make drills more realistic, thus more effective, is to block off an exit – not physically block an exit, but tell staff/students this exit is closed so they get accustomed to thinking on their feet in times of an emergency. You want staff/students to think, "What other exit would I use if my 'normal' egress route is blocked?"

Slips and Falls - Slips, trips, and falls are among the leading types of accidents for many school districts. They can account for many general liability claims and the vast majority of workers compensation costs. Slips are primarily caused by a wet surface and can be compounded by wearing the wrong footwear. While these types of accidents are common, they can be reduced through the use of appropriate foot wear, training, good housekeeping, signage, and care.

Hand Washing – Flu season is among us. The most effective, simple, and cheapest form of preventing the spread of flu is basic hand washing. There is no such thing as too much hand washing. You're at risk every time you touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. In fact, one of the most common ways people catch colds is by rubbing their noses or their eyes after the cold virus has gotten on their hands. By frequently washing your hands the right way, you'll wash away germs — such as bacteria and viruses — that you have picked up from other people, through contact, contaminated surfaces, or food.

I hope you will find these tips helpful. Apply them, and in 2012 you'll see your accident rate fall, and your school's emergency preparedness status rise!

Something New From WSSCA in 2012! In our never ending quest to bring you "news you can use" wssca is proud to present our new and improved newsletter format. With your January newsletter, you will see a brighter, more colorful, easier to read format. Also, we will have space to place some small ads so if you or your company wants to reach a couple hundred possible customers, we can help do that. Finally, take a look at the website for new information that we put there on occasion. Our IT guru, Bob Severson, has done some great things with the website.

Coordinator of the Year Candidates. Each year, the WSSCA Board selects one deserving candidate to win the Coordinator of the Year Award. In addition to a cash award of \$1,000 (which is underwritten by **Community Insurance Co.**), that is presented to the winner's school district, our winner also receives a complementary membership in WSSCA for 2012 and a complementary 2012 Conference fee for the winner and a second person from that district. The deadline has been extended to December 15, 2011. The Nomination Form can be found on the website at: www.wssca.org under "Awards." We know there are many outstanding people in the schools (like 2011 winner Joe Bellomo) who often go unnoticed, so please feel free to nominate yourself. Or, contact me directly, and if I think you are qualified, I'll nominate you myself! We really want the best people for this award so please nominate a friend, a colleague, or yourself.

Best Idea of the Year Award: " In the school safety arena, when someone shares something of value with you - you have a moral obligation to share it with others," so said a wise old man. WSSCA believes this strongly and we are willing to reward those who share the best ideas. If you have an idea that saves your school money (other than the obvious cutting staff, etc.) send it to me. There are no forms to complete. Just put your thoughts to paper and email them to me at: wssca@wssca.org. No more than a page is necessary. Our staff will review the ideas and recognize the best three with the following rewards: **1st Place** - free Conference registration for two; **2nd Place** - free Conference registration fee and one year WSSCA membership; **3rd Place** - free Conference registration fee for one. We will publish your name and your ideas in future newsletters and send a copy of your congratulatory letter to your Superintendent. The winners will also be introduced at the Conference in February. Offer ends December 15. Please help us help others. Send in your ideas. You have a moral obligation, right?

Child Protection Laws Passed. Governor Scott Walker signed several bills in November designed to protect our children. One requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse, which expands the number of "mandated reporters" in our schools, and it also expands training to help recognize abuse. Another bill allows for the revocation of licenses by teachers caught viewing pornography on school computers. Both items were largely bi-partisan. A third bill was more controversial. It now allows schools to refuse to hire felons regardless of whether their felony conviction is substantially related to children or their work at school. Previously, the felony conviction had to be related to the job at the school for the school to reject the application solely on the criminal record. Some argue that felons should be allowed at some point, to be hired for all jobs, so they can become productive citizens. The Governor replied that, "Schools should be able to evaluate a potential employee based on their criminal history."

Thought of the Day: "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have." Teddy Roosevelt.

On behalf of President Bill Freeman and the entire WSSCA Board of Directors, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays! Team WSSCA wishes everyone a safe 2012!

Peter Pochowski
Executive Director and Editor

Education First - Safety Always

GREEN BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



GREEN BAY AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
All learning. All growing.

STAFF SKILLS SURVEY AND INVENTORY

Employee ID:

First Name:

Last Name:

Campus/Facility:

During any disaster situation, it is important to be able to draw from all available resources. The special skills, training and capabilities of the staff will play a vital role in coping with the effects of any disaster incident, and they will be of paramount importance during and after a major or catastrophic disaster. The purpose of this survey/inventory is to pinpoint those staff members with equipment and the special skills that might be needed. Please indicate the areas that apply to you and submit your survey.

1. PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IN WHICH YOU HAVE EXPERTISE AND TRAINING. SELECT ITEMS WHERE APPROPRIATE:

<input type="checkbox"/> First Aid <input type="checkbox"/> Current	<input type="checkbox"/> CPR <input type="checkbox"/> Current	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Handlers <input type="checkbox"/> Current	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus-Truck Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Fighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Equipment Operator	<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Journalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Triage	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Ability	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Material
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> CB / Ham Radio	<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Comment Box)
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham Radio Operator	<input type="checkbox"/> Running-Jogging	

2. Do you keep a personal emergency kit? In your car? In your room/office?

3. What other materials are in your room/office that you believe would be of use during an emergency?

Rags / toweling Traffic Cones Carpet Squares Other (comment box)

4. What equipment or access to equipment or materials at your worksite could be used in an emergency?

Cellphone Traffic Cones Carpet Squares Other (comment box)

5. What languages do you speak?

English Spanish French Other (comment box)

Comments: