



Protecting students outside the regular school day

the threat

Is more real than you think.

Presenters:

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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.



Aftermath - School Bus explosion drill



Students today are at risk:

- Whether they are:
 - In a school bus
 - On a field trip
 - At an athletic event
 - On the practice field
 - Or at a casual scrimmage after school

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REMEMBER WHEN...

Pre- 9/11 traditional threats against schools and school children were:

- Vandalism/sabotage;
- Abductions of students from bus stops;
- Gang activity;
- Road rage incidents against buses; and
- Disturbed or irate students or parents?

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PRE- 9/11 TRADITIONAL THREATS

These threatening situations:

- Originated from the local community.
 - Parents
 - Students
 - Other schools with rivalries
- Usually with a “get even” or “grudge” motivation.
- Usually not planned or rehearsed.

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Post 9/11: A new consideration

We have to consider terrorism as a threat

Defined as:

The threat or use of force or violence to coerce a government or civilian population, in pursuit of political or social objectives.

(Federal Bureau of Investigation)

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How does the newer threat of terrorism change what we do?

Perhaps not at all.

We still have to identify our soft targets:

Areas where students are vulnerable and staff are complacent with regard to risk...
either because they are preoccupied with other tasks or because they underestimate the risk.

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Consider these events

(just 2 of many that have occurred)

- Joyce Gregory, a Tennessee school bus driver is shot and killed while driving her school route
- A school bus in Miami, Florida is hijacked at gun point by two armed men from a bus stop

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Enough risk to take notice

- February, 2010
 - Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, releases a School Bus Security Risk Assessment
 - 8 years after they were petitioned by the industry to evaluate the risk

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Why did it take so long?

- The classic model of risk assessment is to look at history
 - When little has happened . . .
 - We assume little will happen.
 - Until it does . . .
- That is not just a 'federal agency' problem
 - We are guilty of the same!

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TSA's top findings:

- School buses are relatively easily obtained, through theft or hijacking
 - School buses as weapons provide a high risk as vehicle borne improvised explosive devices
- As targets, school buses are highly vulnerable
 - Reliance on school bus drivers alone to provide a majority of the security measures establishes drivers as the potential 'single point of failure component in the system'
 - The same would be true for any school employees at outside school functions

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And then it happens again:

- January 29, 2013
 - Midland City, Alabama
 - A resident on a back country road holds a discussion with a bus driver about the weather and gardening.
 - The next day, that same resident boards the bus and confronts the driver at the stop while students are on board.

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School bus attack . . .

- The driver tries to block the man (who is armed) from boarding the bus and is shot and killed.
- While a student in the back of the bus calls 911 from a cell phone, the intruder takes a kindergarten student hostage into a bunker
- The event draws national attention as the FBI acts to free the student

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And again . . .

- October 17, 2013
 - Jacksonville, Arkansas
 - A suspect armed with a knife takes 11 elementary school children and their school bus driver hostage
 - After a ten-mile chase law enforcement personnel stopped the bus and took the suspect into custody.
 - No students were injured

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What is our risk?

- In Ohio:
 - 15,000 buses on the road every day
 - Travelling 1 million miles daily
 - With over 800,000 school children on board
 - We only have the driver between the students and an ill-intentioned individual
 - When those buses are not on the road, they are often parked at unsecured locations

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The question:

- Is SECURITY a real concern?
- Can something bad happen?
- Or, should we ask:
When will it happen?

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THE 3 RESPONSE OPTIONS . . .

- 1. Act like an ostrich
- 2. Overreact
- 3. The reason why we are here –
Study, Learn, Plan
 - Our history is that we do everything possible to protect the children we take care of daily.
 - But usually only when we are prepared!

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Defining the threat and the risk:

- The violent act of a deranged person
- Or a planned act of terrorism
 - The best protection:
 - Prevention
 - Identify perpetrator before violent action carried out

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What Should We Fear?

- Improvised Explosive Device (IED)
- Ambush
- Hijacking & Hostage Situation

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The bomb threat

- School buses are frequently left unattended for long hours
- Extra book bags and items on school buses are not typically considered to be out-of-place
- Explosive devices are not always large and obvious!

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What does it take to blow up a bus?

- Not much!
- Only a little bit of explosive is needed
 - The last time you did your bus post-trip, what did you find left behind?
 - Consider the size of a purse, backpack, lunch bag . . .

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What can we do?

Help our staff understand the potential

- Focus on staying alert
- Tell staff that when something feels wrong, or looks wrong, they need to say something
- Have procedures in place
 - That includes practice, drills, and knowing how to react when 'it' does happen

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THREE CATEGORIES OF SCHOOL BUS SECURITY AWARENESS

1. **Vehicle** security awareness
2. **Route** security awareness
3. **Bus stop** security awareness



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VEHICLE SECURITY ON ACTIVITY OR SPORTS TRIPS

- Carefully re-check your bus when you return after leaving it for any reason.
- Parked buses are especially vulnerable on activity or sports trips.
- It is safest to keep your bus within view at all times at the destination.
- If your bus has vandal locks, use them.

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ROUTE SECURITY AWARENESS

- Be aware of vehicles following your bus – try to get license plate and description.
- Stay on your approved route at all times - notify base by radio if you must make a detour.
- Follow your planned route on activity or sports trips.

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BUS STOP SECURITY AWARENESS

- Don't let any stranger board your bus without authorization
- Converse through the driver's window if necessary.
 - Use the “high ground” advantage

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Vulnerability of School Buses

- Same route, same time, every school day
- Chance of terrorist incident –
– small. . . but not absent
- Prevention against remote terrorist acts strengthens our ability to prevent day-to-day vandalism and criminal acts

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When considering after-school “safety” for students.....

- * Student safety and sport medicine (health)**
- * Student safety and practice area security**
- * Student and spectator safety and event security**

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Student safety and sport medicine (health)

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP):

- Consider for ALL extra-curricular (athletics, activities, arts) supervisors and groups
- PRACTICE the plan
- Your “Athletics Fire Drill”
- Who is responsible to verify and check:
 - Sports Med: Athletic Trainer
 - Athletics: Athletic Director
 - Activities/Arts: Principal

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LAKE ATHLETICS: -EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN-

Team: _____ Coach: _____

2013-2014 Sport Season Coach's Cell Phone: _____

1. Each coach must complete all requested data within the first two days of official practice start.
2. An Emergency Action Plan PRACTICE must be completed within the first week of each practice season (see notes at bottom of this page).
3. One copy of this completed page must be on file in the Lake athletic office within seven days of the first official start date of practice.
4. Additional copies of this data should be provided to each coaching staff member, designated first-aid responder and the athletic trainer.

Practice site and official address: _____

Specific directions to practice/home site from nearest major intersection: _____

Where should EMS come to have quick access to the injured athlete: _____

Who is to provide primary care to the athlete: _____

Where is the First-Aid kit located: _____

Where is the AED located from your area: _____

Where are the Emergency Medical Information forms: _____

Who calls EMS: _____

Where is the phone from which to call EMS: _____

Who notifies the parent(s) that athlete is being transported: _____

Who notifies the trainer and athletic director: _____

Who manages the remainder of contest/practice: _____

Who opens doors/gates for EMS: _____

Who travels with injured athlete: _____

Who does follow-up with parent: _____

Who documents the injury: _____

Where is the closest weather shelter: _____

Who has keys/access to weather shelter: _____

Who performs daily safety check of field/court area: _____

Date of -Emergency Action Plan Practice: _____

Verified by: _____ Date: _____

Student safety and practice area security



MINIMIZE ACCESS POINTS

- Create “funnel” effect; minimize unlocked doors
- Consider unique logistical factors:
 - On-campus
 - “Out” buildings and venues
 - “Off-campus” venues
- **DON'T** rely upon custodians to monitor
- **Minimize or restrict sectional use of building**

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Student safety and practice area security

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

After-School Monitors:

- Could be extension of your SRO contract
- “Shift” SRO schedule to include coverage from “3:00-6:00 p.m.” daily
- Prefer to have uniformed or licensed law enforcement personnel; ideally trained in security emergency protocols (e.g., “ALICE” training, etc.)



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Student safety and practice area security

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



After-School Monitors:

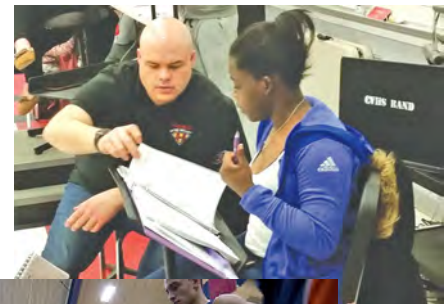
- Consider a stipend
- Use of school faculty or staff (familiarity with students and facility)
- **MINIMUM expectation: ADULT!**

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Student safety and practice area security

Supervisory Personnel (Coaches, Advisors)

- Ideally, all have specific training in security/protective measures
- Must be able to define expectations and protocols for:
 - “LOCKDOWN” procedures
 - “EVACUATION” procedures
- Must know where “Shelter-in-Place” and “Re-unification” locations are



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AFTER SCHOOL EVENT SAFETY & SECURITY TEAM



- Include as part of your overall school facility security assessment team
- Needs to be inclusive of:
 - Event venues (practice & competition)
 - Gated areas
 - Access points

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***“Practice? C’mon man,
we’re just talkin’ PRACTICE!”***



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A northeast Ohio school will be taking their varsity and JV volleyball team and going through an “ALICE” training scenario.

During an actual contest with another school and all spectators!



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Student and spectator safety and event security

CRITICAL TIPS: Admin

- Designate a **SITE MANAGER** at all contracted events. **DO NOT** rely upon the coach to manage the venue, spectators, officials, teams
- Create **SCRIPTS** for potential issues:
 - Weather
 - Bomb threat
 - Active shooter

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Student and spectator safety and event security

CRITICAL TIPS: Event Personnel

- Be ON TIME
- Two-way radios
- Wear apparel that is DISTINCTIVE
- ALWAYS STAND
- Stay off your cell phone
- Scan “your” area every 30 seconds
- Create a positive relationship with guests/spectators
- Concentrate on potential “hot spots”

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The big question . . . Again . . .

Are these risks REAL? or IMAGINED?

We hope they are imagined.

BUT, we cannot afford to be complacent.

We have plans in place in our buildings,
but many other venues are still unprotected.

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Thank you!



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