SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Gregg Champlin
School Planning & Natural Hazards Specialist
NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management
“No one person is an expert in Emergency Preparedness… Together WE are the experts!”

- GBC
Program History

• 1991: National Earthquake Hazard Program
  – Discovered schools had no plans
  – Even Building Evacuation was not thought out (Cold Weather)

• 1992: Commenced school outreach
  – Hazard Awareness sessions
  – Utilized FEMA (EMI) Earthquake Safety Program for Schools

• 1994: School Emergency planning workshops
  – Altered FEMA curriculum to all-hazards
  – ICS recommended management structure

• 1996: School shooting incidents started
  – Stayed all-hazards format
Program History cont.

- 1998: Ignore Fire Alarm during a Lockdown
- 2001: 2\textsuperscript{nd} World Trade Center attack
- 2007: Law requiring all Public and Nonpublic K-12 schools to have ERP
- 2009: Child Care rule approved
- Present:
  - Continue Planning Workshops
  - Exercise Support
  - Facility Audits
  - Address any other concerns
RSA 189:64

- Public and nonpublic schools required to have site specific Emergency Response Plans
- Based on and conform to ICS and NIMS
- Two of required Fire Evacuation drills used to practice other Response Actions
- Must cover Multiple Hazards
- Coordinated with local emergency officials & EOP
- Reviewed and updated at least annually
- NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management responsible for assisting schools
Child Care Rule

• Required to have Emergency Response Plans
• Based on the Incident Command System (ICS)
• Coordinated with Emergency Response Agencies
• Guidelines for critical tasks
  • Incident Commander
  • Child Care
  • Medical
  • Child-Parent Reunification
• Requires six (6) Response Actions
  • Evacuation (Building & Off-Site)
  • Lockdown
  • Secure Campus (Lockout)
  • Shelter-In-Place
  • Drop-Cover & Hold
  • Reverse Evacuation
New Hampshire has and will experience all hazards except an active volcano!
“When we teach the Incident Command System we’re teaching a SKILL and as with any SKILL it must be applied and practiced to be learned”

JoAnn Jordan, Seattle Emergency Management
Applying ICS
Organizational Management Tool

• IS100SCa Intro to ICS for Schools
  – followed by ICS workshop
• Keep it simple… stick to the basics
  – Task and People oriented
  – Unity of Command
  – Common Terminology
  – Chain of Command
  – Span of control (3-7 people)
• Incident Objectives
  – Concentrate on Life Safety and Accountability!!
• Use ICS for Planned Events
Functional Responsibilities

- Command: In charge of all the stuff
- Operations: Do stuff
- Planning: Keep track of what stuff has been done, is being done and may have to be done
- Logistics: Get stuff
- Finance & Administration: Pay for all the stuff
Site Positions

Incident Commander
Public Information Officer

MINIMUM
- Student Care
- Medical
- Student Reunification
- Security/Facility

NICE TO HAVE
- Behavioral Health
- Off-Site Setup
- Security/Facility
- Intelligence
- Supply
- Purchasing
- Documentation
- Staffing
Response Actions

- Lockdown
- Secure Campus
- Shelter-In-Place (Haz-Mat Incidents)
- Scan
- Evacuation
  - Building
  - Off-Site
- Reverse Evacuation
  - Go In
- Drop, Cover and Hold
OTHER RESPONSE ACTIONS

Schools may wish to implement “Hazard Specific” Response Actions.

For example if there is an “Area of Refuge” available a Tornado/Severe Wind response may be implemented after Tornado Warning is issued.
Keene
Domestic Incident
February 14, 2012

There’s an armed bad guy on the loose!
What Worked

• Response Actions
  – Reverse Evacuation
  – Secure Campus

• ICS
  – Command post
  – School Security Team activated
ISSUES

• No Effective Method to Alert Parents
• No Effective Way to Communicate with Private Schools & Child Care Programs
• Safety of Walkers
• Absent Students
• No Time Limit to Event
Mountain View Middle School
Incident
White Powder in Envelope
March 2012
Lessons Learned

Importance of:

- Unified Command;
- Shelter-In-Place
- Communications;
- Utilizing the media;
- Establishing a Parent Liaison Station;
- ICS: Teamwork, Common Terminology.
There’s been a shooting in the Walpole Cafeteria!
Lessons Learned

- Public Information Officer
- Deputy School Incident Commander
- Inform Area School Districts
- Develop Depth
- Pre-Identify Traffic Control Points

Trauma Bags!!!

Practice, Practice, Practice!
Key Points

• Universal District wide Command Posts
• Practice at “inconvenient” times
• Parents did exactly what they were trained to do
• Parent/Student reunification

• Global Connect
• Emergency Telephones
• Area Command at Central Office
• Incident Action Plan for Recovery
• After Action Mtgs. and Planning
• Table Top Exercises and varied Scenarios
In conclusion.....

By utilizing the Incident Command System as their management tool and with the seven Response Actions in place and drilled, school personnel will be able to respond to any hazard.