



# Illinois School and Campus Safety Program

## ***P-12 Courses***

### **Developing Emergency Operations Plans K-12 101 Train-the-Trainer**

This 8-hour REMS course presents important Federal guidance on school emergency management planning. In June 2013, the Obama Administration released the Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, which provides an overview of Federal guidance on school emergency management planning. The Guide incorporates lessons learned from recent events, like the school shooting in Newtown and the tornadoes in Oklahoma, as well as years of emergency planning work by the Federal government, to present a recommended process, important content elements, and key considerations for school emergency operations plan (EOP) development. Lessons learned from school emergencies highlight the importance of preparing school officials and first responders to implement school EOPs. With this Train-the-Trainer course, an expert team will train potential master trainers on the recommended six step planning process to create a high-quality school EOP. This six step planning process is designed to help schools develop a plan, conduct a comprehensive review of their entire plan, or conduct periodic and incremental reviews of a plan's components. The planning process discussed during the K-12 101 Train-the-Trainer is flexible and can be adapted to accommodate a school's unique characteristics and situation.

The target audience for this course is potential master trainers from participating schools and school districts responsible for training site-based planning teams interested in creating, revising, or enhancing school EOPs; school staff members who serve, or will serve, on their school or school district's EOP planning team; and other interested community stakeholders, including first responders, emergency medical services personnel, law enforcement, and others.

### **Earthquake Preparedness for Schools Training**

This day-long REMS course is designed to assist school districts and schools in planning for earthquakes that may impact the school community, its buildings and grounds, as well as those within the surrounding community. This training is intended to provide participants with an overview of the dangers earthquakes may pose to a school and its community. Key considerations for preparing for, protecting from, mitigating the effect of, responding to, and recovering from an earthquake are provided. The training also presents courses of action that planning teams may want to consider when developing hazard-specific and functional annexes relevant to earthquake preparedness. Training objectives include participants being able to: explain why earthquakes are dangerous and how they can impact schools and communities, including through cascading/secondary effects; describe preparedness activities that can help protect schools before, during, and after an earthquake; understand how the six-step planning process can help address earthquake preparedness in schools; recognize what courses of action may need to be addressed when planning for an earthquake; and identify where to go for more resources.

The target audience for this course is those with roles and responsibilities in protecting the school community before, during, and after potential earthquakes, including: district and school administrators, educators, counselors, school psychologists, facilities staff, nurses, food management and cafeteria staff, and other community partners such as: law enforcement, emergency managers, emergency medical services personnel, the local municipality's representative, public and mental health officials, and representatives from community groups including youth-serving organizations.

### **Student Behavioral Threat Assessment**

Research findings indicate that incidents of targeted violence in schools were rarely impulsive; that the students who perpetrated the attacks usually planned them out well in advance with planning behavior that was often observable; and, that prior to most attacks, other students knew the attack was to occur. (*Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe Schools*, U.S. Secret Service 2002)

The purpose of this one day (8 hour) seminar is to provide increased understanding of the framework and application of student behavioral threat assessment in elementary and secondary schools. The target audience and student threat assessment process is a multi-disciplinary team approach comprised of school administration, key faculty, psychological services, counselors, local law enforcement, school resource officers, local community services, mental health agencies, and school legal counsel. Participants will gain an enhanced understanding and ability to identify persons exhibiting threatening or aberrant behaviors, evaluate the risk of the threat, and provide appropriate interventions and case management to reduce the risk of violence. **This is a prerequisite course for *Advanced Student Behavioral Threat Assessment*.**

### **Advanced Student Behavioral Threat Assessment**

The *Advanced Student Behavioral Threat Assessment* course is offered for established school threat assessment teams and expands on the basic "*Student Behavioral Threat Assessment*" training. This advanced training is designed to enhance skills, identify common team problems and solutions, and provide information on best practices and standards. The goal for this course is to give participants a chance to practice their skills in key areas—threat assessment procedures, case management planning, developing questions for threat assessment interviews, and determining appropriate interventions. This 8-hour course provides strategies for effective threat assessment interviews with a focus on prevention, in contrast to law enforcement or clinical interviews.

This advanced training is highly interactive, incorporating the use of both guided case studies and facilitated discussions regarding critical issues facing threat assessment teams. The objectives are to enhance case management skills and to foster continuing improvement of threat management practices.

The target audience for this course is current members of school threat assessment teams and those with a role in preventing, deterring, interviewing, or managing concerns of violence in schools. This course is appropriate for local law enforcement officials (School Resource Officers/Juvenile Officers), school principals, deans, counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and local mental health officials. **The Student Behavioral Threat Assessment course is a prerequisite for participation in this course.**

## **AWR-132 Understanding and Planning for School Bomb Incidents**

Bomb threats to schools are a significant problem throughout the United States. Although more than 90% of bomb threats turn out to be pranks, school districts must take each threat seriously because of the real potential for death and serious injury. The problem of bomb threats is an annual occurrence for many school districts, resulting in days lost from teaching and learning, emotional trauma to students and staff, and financial costs. Effective response to school bomb threats requires the coordinated efforts of administration, faculty, staff, and first responders.

This 8-hour New Mexico Tech course is designed to aid emergency responders who respond to school bomb incidents. The primary target audience includes firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, security personnel, and school employees who are responsible for planning for and responding to bombing incidents in schools. This course addresses issues and considerations involved in developing a safe and effective school bomb threat response plan annex as part of the school emergency operations plan. **This is a prerequisite course for K-12 school officials attending the AWR-130-2 Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings.**

## **AWR-130-2 Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings**

This 8-hour New Mexico Tech course is designed for responders who require the skills necessary to recognize and report a potential incident involving explosives or who are likely to witness or investigate an event involving the use of explosives or explosive devices. This course provides basic information on explosive and incendiary devices that could be used as terrorist weapons. Classroom topics include: understanding the terrorist threat, improvised explosive devices, safety issues, etc. At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to identify and take appropriate action in the event of a potential or realized weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident involving explosives and incendiaries.

The target audience for this course includes school administrators; higher education institution officials responsible for emergency planning and managing bomb incidents; college and university police/security/public safety officials, facilities managers, building and grounds management, housing, recreation and athletic staff; as well as responders from the following fields: law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, healthcare, public health, public safety communications, public works, hazardous materials, and governmental administration. **K-12 school administrators must attend the Understanding & Planning for School Bomb Incidents course as a prerequisite.**

