



New York State School Safety Group 491

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| Route to: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Business Off. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supt. Bldgs/Grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Administrators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Dir. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Teachers |
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Safe Schools Agenda

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August 2005

A monthly service provided to help you with your efforts to make your school safe for students, staff and the public

ICE=In Case of Emergency

Here is a new safety tip that you can pass on to your staff and students – and to your entire school community.

Technology has changed the ways in which we communicate, not the least of which is the ubiquitous cell phone. Few new wallets include “in case of emergency” cards so paramedics have learned to look to an accident victim’s cell phone for clues to the injured person’s identity.

However, they find that most people who carry mobile phones rarely include emergency contact information. They may list “Mom” and “Dad”, but these may not necessarily represent the people to contact in case of an emergency.

The solution being advocated by the emergency responder community is to enter two ICE phone numbers into your cell phone address book, giving emergency responders more numbers to try in the event one contact was not available or if a number has been changed or disconnected.

Example:

ICE #1 (xxx) xxx-xxxx Horatio

ICE #2 (xxx) xxx-xxxx Sally

Check it out with your local emergency responder community. They will be glad to join you in a targeted safety campaign.

Plan Now for Fire Prevention Week

The National Fire Prevention Protection Association has announced that **October 9-15** will be **Fire Prevention Week**. The theme will be “Use Candles with Care”.

An estimated 18,000 house fires were started last year by lit candles, according to fire department reports. They resulted in 190 deaths, 1,450 injuries and an estimated property loss of \$265 million. For official Fire Prevention week materials, see www.nfpa.org/.

Here is another potent theme for your Fire Prevention Week efforts – Juvenile Firesetting. In a typical year, fires set by children and youth claim the lives of approximately 300 people and destroy more than \$300 million worth of property. Children are the predominant victims of these fires, accounting for 85 of every 100 lives lost, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Albany County, NY has a record of success in turning around identified juvenile firesetters. Since 1998, their intervention programs have served 448 children, with only one of those going on to set another fire after the intervention. For assistance, see “Juvenile Firesetters” at <http://www.juvenilejustice.com/firsetter.html>. and “Juvenile Firesetter Resource Guide at http://www.theideabank.com/jfs_guide/

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The Cost of Workplace Injuries Continues to Rise

According to the latest issue of the Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index, serious on-the-job injuries, those causing an employee to miss six or more days of work, continue to rise significantly faster than medical and wage inflation. This is despite a drop in the number of serious injuries over the past four years.

Top Ten Workplace Injuries in 2002

Injury Type - Percentage

Overexertion -	26.6%
Falls on Same Level -	12.5%
Bodily Reaction -	10.8%
Falls to Lower Level -	9.2%
Struck by Object -	8.9%
Repetitive Motion -	5.7%
Highway Incident -	5.2%
Struck Against Object -	4.7%
Caught in/Compressed by -	3.8%
Assaults -	0.9%

Note that the top three injury causes account for 50% of the total (in number and in cost). They are also the fastest growing of all injury costs.

So what does the Workplace Safety Index have to do with injuries in your organization?

It provides a reference point for your evaluation and planning. Injuries aren't inevitable, and the way to prevent them is to have a target, a plan, and follow-up.

Take a look at your accident/injury reports for the past few years and look for a pattern. If you show a pattern of injuries in the top three injury types, you certainly will want to target at least one of them – it has the potential for the greatest cost savings.

On the other hand, if you have had a series of falls, you may want to concentrate your efforts there.

Make sure that your follow-up plan provides for determining the real root causes of the injuries. Improvement won't happen without a plan which targets high cost injuries, determines root causes, sets clear targets for reducing those injuries, implements changes to control risks, trains staff members and regularly measures performance and updates the plan.

Toy Gun Alert

Police across the country are warning about the emerging trend to bring toy guns to school. "They are extremely realistic" and could lead to tragic consequences in a confrontation.

