Empower Schools with Tools

Fire Marshal Bob King & Inspector Michelle Peltier

Sparks Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau

and the

Fire Prevention Association of Nevada
OVERVIEW

GOAL

INCREASE FIRE-SAFETY KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REDUCE FIRE RELATED:

• Incidents, Injuries, & Property Damage
• Disruptions/Lost Educational Time

TARGET AUDIENCE

• School Incident Response Teams (SIRT)
  – First line of defense during emergencies; About 10 per school
  – Provide SIRT members with knowledge and materials to teach others how to reduce injuries and loss-of-life and property
OVERVIEW

PARTNERSHIPS

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT &
THE FIRE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION OF NEVADA

North Lake Tahoe Fire District
Reno Fire Department
Sierra Fire Protection District
Sparks Fire Department
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

SIRT MEMBERS ONLY (NOT AS TRAIN-THE-TRAINER)

• When and how to use a portable fire extinguisher
• To Recognize & Correct Basic Safety Concerns
  – School Fire & Life Safety Checklist
  – Fire code & jurisdiction/district policies

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

• Fire Safety Awareness & Resources
  – General prevention and awareness
  – School exit drill procedures and requirements
  – Youth Firesetting: How and when to refer for intervention

EMPOWER SCHOOLS WITH TOOLS

A WASHOE COUNTY NEVADA REGIONAL COOPERATIVE
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES

ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO TEACH FIRE-SAFETY AND PREVENTION IN CLASSROOMS

• Correct Messaging
• SIRT Members Encourage & Track
• Youngest Target Audience: 3\textsuperscript{rd} Grade and Under
  – Use CD with PowerPoint provided to all elementary schools in 2008
• Older Target Audience: 4\textsuperscript{th} Grade and Up
  – Use CD with PowerPoint provided with this program “General Fire Safety Education”
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES: TRAIN THE TRAINER

General Prevention and Awareness

- Importance
- Cause of fire
- Smoke alarm placement & testing
- Get out, stay out
- Escape planning & exit drills
- Stop, drop & roll
- 9-1-1 for emergencies
- How to treat a burn
- Preventing the fire
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES: TRAIN THE TRAINER

School Exit Drill Procedures & Requirements

- Fire Alarm Systems
- Fire-Protection Sprinkler Systems
- Accountability
- Re-Entry Authorization
- Local Timing Requirements, Policies & Forms
- Individual Duties Designated & Documented
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES: TRAIN THE TRAINER

Firesetting Intervention

• When to Call
  – Firesets
  – Incendiary Devices
  – False Alarms
  – Smoke Bombs
  – All Bomb-Related Incidents

• YFS Brochures & Referral Forms

• Know Your Individual School Processes
OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES: SIRT MEMBERS

When & How To Use a Portable Fire Extinguisher

- Fight or Flight / Limitations
- How to Position Yourself to Avoid Being Trapped
- Steps to Safe Evacuation
- Hands – On Practice

School Fire & Life Safety Checklist

- One SIRT Member completes every 2 months
  - Fire code & Jurisdiction/District Policies
  - Turned in to and tracked by Facilities Management Department
OVERVIEW

EXPENSES

2010 AFG FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANT

Purchased Resources

• Digital-Extinguisher Training Simulator
• Training Binders with Dividers
• Printed Materials
• Instructional DVD
• CD’s with All Training Resources
• Magnetic Escape Plans
• “Respect Fire with Smart Choices” Wristbands

Vision 20/20

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MODELS IN FIRE PREVENTION

SYMPOSIUM 2012
FORMATIVE EVALUATION

HELP REQUEST ⇔ ⇔ RISK ASSESSMENT

No Record of Comprehensive Fire-Safety Training for Staff
Lack of Emergency Planning & Fire Prevention Knowledge

- 14% of teachers disagree when asked if they feel safe at school
- Only 2% of principals feel staff is “highly knowledgeable” conducting emergency drills
- 78% of staff do not know how to request or conduct emergency training

Crimes Increasing:
Bomb Threats, Gangs & Unlawful Disturbances

$5K Property Damage per Fire Incident

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Curriculum Development

- Regional Team Meetings
- 1250 Training Booklets & CD’s Produced
  - Material segmented to fit time constraints
  - Evaluative measures
  - Resources and references
- Bought Electronic Training System for Extinguisher Training

Training Sessions Scheduled

- Initial Intent to Teach at Each of the 123 Schools
- Each Fire Department to Teach within Own District
PROCESS EVALUATION

MAKING IT WORK

Evaluation Review ➔ ➔ ➔ Redirect Efforts

• Superintendent Transition
• School District & Fire Department Budget Cuts
• Schools Could Only Allot 60-90 Minutes Each
• All Parts of Curriculum Necessary

Change in Strategy

• School Fire & Life Safety Checklists
  – To be covered individually by fire inspectors
• Cancelled Classes at Individual Schools
• Scheduled Group Classes

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VISION 20/20

MODELS IN FIRE PREVENTION

SYMPOSIUM 2012
Group Classes

- Five 2-Hour Classes to Streamline Training
  - Two SIRT representatives from each school
  - Reps responsible for sharing info & materials with rest of SIRT team
  - Participants separated into three groups
  - Three different stations to allow smaller classes & cover all material
  - Instruction by representatives of all fire departments
EMPOWER SCHOOLS WITH TOOLS
AUGUST 17, 2011
Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SET-UP TIME</th>
<th>STATION I EXTINGUISHER</th>
<th>STATION II FIRE AWARENESS</th>
<th>STATION III EVACUATION &amp; YFS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Lead Instructor/Station 1</td>
<td>1. Lead Instructor</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SCHOOL STAFF ARRIVE / CHECK IN</th>
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1:15-1:55  Group A  Group B  Group C

All Stations complete sign-in roster & give pre-test before starting curriculum by 1:25
Have participants grade their pre-tests & hold onto (max: 10 extra minutes)

2:00-2:30  Group B  Group C  Group A

2:35-3:15  Group C  Group A  Group B

All Stations give post-test & Evaluations at 3:05. Have participants grade their post-tests & turn in with pre-tests.

***Please Remind Participants To Take 8 Training Binders Back to their Schools For the Rest of the SIRT Team Members***
IMPACT EVALUATION

KNOWLEDGE GAINED

Pre-Tests, Post-Tests & Evaluations

- Administered During T-t-T Sessions
- Provided to SIRT Members for Continuous Evaluation
  - Regional fire training team will evaluate every 6 months for 5 years

Post-Tests Vs. Pre-Tests Results

- Addresses fire safety, youth-set fires, evacuation drills, and use of portable fire extinguishers
- Proves increased knowledge, skills, and awareness
  - Average missed on Pre-test: 7 questions
  - Average missed on Post-test: 0.5 questions
EVALUATION RESULTS
Comments Cite Most Helpful Parts of the Program

• “Making me realize the things I need to go over at school. Thanks for a great program and materials.”
• “Knowing cooperation of schools and fire departments”
• “Made me re-think how much I need drills for home and work”
• “Explanation of and hands-on use of fire extinguishers”
• “Lots of information presented of which I was unaware—Thank you”
• “Learning what I need to do to protect my family…I will teach my children and friends what I have learned.”
• “How fast a fire grows; how long a fire extinguisher will spray.”
• “Myths & reality of fire”
• “Statistics regarding fire damage”
LONG-TERM IMPACT

Standardized Fire Safety Procedures & Training

- School District Encompasses 5 Different Fire Departments
- Opens Lines of Communication & Eliminates Confusion
- Decreases Time Needed to Handle Deficiencies and Crises
  - Proactive solution
  - Enables school district to better prioritize and budget

Education Messaging Spreads within Community

- Behavioral changes resulting in ↓ fire deaths, injuries & damage

Designed to Be Shared as a Pilot Program
OUTCOME EVALUATION

FUTURE SURVEYS & DATA

Five Years of Data Tracking

• Persons Trained, Test Scoring, Evaluations
• School-Safety Checklists, Problems, & Corrections

ID Additional Trends & Potential Decline of Incidents

• Increased Confidence in Safety of Staff & Children
• Decreased Fire-Related Crime & Other Incidents
• Decrease in Injury & Property Damage
• Increase in Early Intervention Activities

Benchmark Answers to Annual Climate Survey

• May 2012 Versus 2005 & 2008 Surveys
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**TRIAL & ERROR**

**Flexibility Required**
- Coordinate around obligations, time, and staff shortages

**Top-Down Commitment**
- Ensure buy-in of school district superintendent and fire chiefs
- Make sure supervisors will mandate and attend
RESOURCES

FOR YOUR USE

Curriculum
– Training Outline
– PowerPoint Presentations
– Safety Checklist
– Pre & Post Tests
– Evaluations
– Resources/Referrals

Escape Plan

Do you hear your smoke alarm? **Get out fast!**
Stay out—Don't go back inside for any reason!

Where is your meeting place? **Get out fast!**
Agree on a meeting place.
Everyone waits there for the fire department.

1. Get your family together. Draw a floor plan of your home.
   • Mark all windows, doors, and smoke detectors.
2. Show 2 ways out of every room.
3. Practice your plan at least twice every year.
4. Install smoke detectors in every sleeping area and on every level of your home.

**EMERGENCY? Call 911**
Know Your Address

www.sparksfire.com

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MODELS IN FIRE PREVENTION

SYMPOSIUM 2012