



SchoolGuard

News and information for School Community Emergency Preparedness

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Do You Work For a Public School? You Are a Disaster Service Worker

Public Employee DSW Status

California Government Code Section 3100-3109 states in part:

It is hereby declared that the protection of the health and safety and preservation of the lives and property of the people of the state from the effects of natural, manmade, or war- caused emergencies which result in conditions of disaster or extreme peril to life, property, and resources is of paramount state importance... in protection of its citizens and resources, all public employees are hereby declared to be disaster service workers...

All disaster service workers shall, before they enter upon the duties of their employment, take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation...

What does 'disaster service' mean?

Disaster service means all activities authorized by and carried out pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act.*

Who is included in the disaster service worker status?

All public employees are included in disaster service worker status which are all persons employed by any county, city, state agency or public district.

What is the scope of duties of the disaster service worker?

Any disaster service worker shall be considered to be acting within the scope of disaster service duties while assisting any unit of the organization or performing any act contributing to the protection of life or property or mitigating the affects of an emergency.

How are disaster service worker activities assigned?

Disaster service worker activities are assigned to

employees by their superiors or by law to assist the agency in carrying out its responsibilities during times of disaster.

What is the oath or affirmation that is referred to in the government code?

Before they enter upon the duties of their employment, all disaster service workers take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation set forth in the California Constitution.

When do public employees take and subscribe to the oath or affirmation?

Most public employees sign the oath or affirmation during the hiring process and it is kept with the employer.

Do disaster service workers get paid?

Disaster service workers get paid only if they have taken and subscribed to the oath or affirmation.

Can a disaster service worker be sued for actions that occur while they are performing disaster services?

Disaster service workers for non-profit organizations and government cannot be held liable for their actions during a disaster while acting within the scope of their responsibilities.

What if a disaster service worker is injured while performing the functions of their assigned duties?

Claims sustained by disaster service workers while performing disaster services shall be filed with the state as workers' compensation claims under the same authorities and guidelines as all employees within their agency and shall be covered by the state.



Hopland Elementary,
center right. January 5, 2006

Additional DSW information

* California Emergency Services Act

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=gov&group=08001-09000&file=8550-8551>

SchoolGuard

<http://schoolguard.org>

Governors Office of Emergency Services

[http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/Laws&RegsCalCodePDFs/\\$file/Ch2.3_%20DSW.pdf](http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/PDF/Laws&RegsCalCodePDFs/$file/Ch2.3_%20DSW.pdf)

Contra Costa Public Health

<http://www.cchealth.org/topics/emergencies/video.php>

Upcoming Events

Fourteen to Train as Trainers at Emergency Management Institute Multi-hazard Emergency Planning for Schools

Emmitsburg Maryland is home to the Emergency Management Institute, the national center for emergency management training. October 16-19th, MCOE is sending fourteen individuals from Mendocino County representing the following:

- Mendocino County Office of Education

- Ukiah Unified School District
- Redwood Academy Charter School of Ukiah
- County Offices of Mendocino
- Mendocino County Public Health
- Ukiah Police Department
- Ukiah Sheriffs Department
- Ukiah Fire Department

All participants are FEMA scholarship recipients which provides for the travel, food and accommodations during the training.

This course is designed to meet the needs of this diverse audience. Participants will learn to work together to prepare schools for emergencies and to help save lives and protect property.

This Mendocino County team is one of the largest to be accepted to the EMI Multi-hazards For Schools, Train the Trainer Program.



Region 1 Grant offers Teen SERT

Teens Learn Community Service, Health and Improve Self Esteem

National founder of the Teen SERT program, Haley Rich, will be conducting three introductory workshops throughout Region 1, to help schools learn about and launch SERT programs in their schools. The program is designed for high school students and is often offered as part of the regular health or community service program.

The workshop will provide an overview of the program that is officially becoming a part of national CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. The workshop will present re-

search outcomes that justify implementation of the program as well as the recommended curriculum.

As part of the day long workshop Sue Campbell RN will teach Moulage, a theatre quality make-up technique that simulates wounds and injuries that can make functional and full-scale exercises much more realistic. Sue brings her expertise in how to use household items to create simulated disaster related wounds. Imagine all the money you can save at Halloween.

The workshops are free of charge, sponsored by the USDOE grant. They will be held in three locations:

Monday, September 18, @ RESIG in Windsor
9:00-4:00

Tuesday, September 19, @ MCOE in Ukiah
9:00-4:00

Wednesday, September 20, @ HCOE in Eureka
9:00-4:00

Space is limited so please register early.

To register for the training in Windsor, please call Coby La Fayette @ 836-0779 xt 110

For the Ukiah training, please call Leslie Roberts @ 467-5026

For the Eureka training, please call Kimberly Comet @ 445-7067

IS 100 - Introduction to Incident Command System and IS 700 National Incident Management System

Site administrators, Superintendents and Emergency Team leaders are required to be NIMS compliant.

Superintendents:

In order to meet NIMS compliance require-

ments quickly and effectively our interim MCOE policy is to have all District Superintendents take IS 100 and IS 700 by September 30, 2006 either through an intensive class which will be offered on September 29, 2006 after the SELPA Policy Council meeting or through the FEMA website via online independent study course and post test completion.

Principals, Vice Principals & Site Team Leaders:

In order to meet NIMS compliance requirements **quickly and effectively** our interim policy is to have all principals, vice principals and site team leaders take either an intensive IS 100 Emergency Management for School Personnel workshop and post test or independently take and pass the FEMA IS 100 online course and final exam. The first of a series of Emergency Management trainings was presented at MCOE on August 14, 2006 for approximately fifty principals and team leaders. This training was video taped and will be available for review in the near future. The PowerPoint material from this training is currently available at www.SchoolGuard.org.



Sonoma County News

Three USDOE Grant Projects

Three major projects are now completed and ready for distribution to our schools in Sonoma County.

Model Emergency Operations Plan for Schools

Every District Office will be receiving a hard copy of the plan along with a CD during the month of September. This plan contains all of the checklists for each position in a school-related emergency response. It also details the actions to take in the event of a school-site emergency, such as earthquake, fire, shooter on

campus, etc. The plan is SEMS (Standardized Emergency Management System) and NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant. NIMS compliance is now *required* to receive both state and federal reimbursement after a disaster prevention funding such as Safe Schools and ERCM grants.

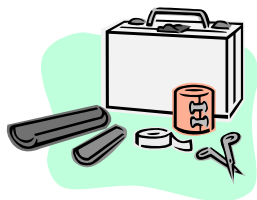
Quick Reference Guide for Classrooms

The Quick Reference Guide for Classrooms is a companion project of the model EOP. We have enough Quick Reference Guides to provide one for every classroom in Sonoma County. We will be contacting individual schools during the month of September to take orders. Or schools can contact the SchoolGuard office at (707) 836-0779 x101 and ask for Erin and she will take your order by phone.

Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and Tool Kit for Schools

Health officials are warning that the H5N1 strain of the Avian Flu has the potential to develop into a global pandemic that could have a significant impact on our schools.

Currently under development, the plan and tool kit provides valuable information for schools in preparing for and responding to the effects of a pandemic on schools.



Workshop: Pandemic Influenza and the Impact on Our Schools

We will be explaining how a pandemic can impact our schools, legal issues related to extended school closures and pro-active steps schools can take NOW to prepare our schools

and communities.

Wednesday, September 13th from 1-3

and again on Thursday, October 12th from 1-3

RESIG, 5760 Skylane Blvd., Windsor in the San Andreas Room

Speakers include: Leigh Hall and Kim Caldewey from the Sonoma Co. Dept. of Health Services, Susanne Reed from School and College Legal Services and Jeannie Goobanoff from RESIG and the USDOE ERCM Grant Project

Please contact Erin Tarkhanian at (707) 836-0779 xt 101 to register for either of these workshops.

SchoolGuard is an Emergency Response and Crisis Management Grant provided through the US Dept. of Education #Q184E050050.

Additional information on other grant projects and workshops can be found at: www.SchoolGuard.org then click on "Our Partners" for the Sonoma County projects.

Being Prepared Begins at Home.

Get Informed:

Take time to learn what hazards threaten to disrupt your community.

Learn about your communities response plans, evacuation plans and designated emergency shelters.

Ask about emergency plans in places that you spend time; work, school and transit systems.

Make a Plan:

Decide where to meet, choose a place outside the house to gather. Complete a communication plan. Decide on an out-of-town contact that family members can call to report where and how they are.

Build a Kit:

Nonperishable food for the family for at least three days, one gallon of water per person, per day. A flashlight and radio with extra fresh batteries and a first aid kit.