



### Homeland Security Advisory System

#### What should Schools do under a **Severe Condition (Red)**

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**Severe Condition (Red)** A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions (*level*), Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
- Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
- Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
- Closing public and government facilities.

Source – US Department of Homeland Security - <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

#### To put this into practical language for schools, these are the actions Schools should consider:

1. **CLOSE THE SCHOOL:** If school is in session, continue the day with increased caution and make plans to close the following day. An unexpected early closing causes chaos in the community and the school in less troubling times. If the radio and television are warning "Condition Red," an early closing could create panic and paranoia. Schools are lucrative terrorist targets because of the concentration of vulnerable students. Remove that concentration and the school ceases to be such a target. If the school remains open, consider the following.

2. **OPEN SCHOOLS:**

A. **Contact your Homeland Security State Appointee-** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/contactmap.html> Determine if your location is perceived to be at the same level or if your Appointee believes you are at a lower level. Then act accordingly.

Click map to learn more



B. **Alert your Crisis Response Team** to be vigilant and quickly review emergency actions for lock-downs and evacuation.

C. **Set up a remote-receiving site.** Redirect all incoming traffic, i.e., people, deliveries, mail, utilities, etc., to a location away from all students. Only required staff and students should be allowed in the schools and they should be required to curtail all coming and going. Designated personnel at the remote site should receive all visitors and deliveries. Non-essential mail and packages should be held in storage, visitors turned away (gracefully), rope off parking near facility and a well-trained person should be present to handle the media who will come.

D. **Bring in additional people.** Additional "substitute teachers" who have been trained in your emergency procedures and who have the ability to react with discipline in an emergency could augment your staff for a day or two. Ask law enforcement to provide additional patrols around or in your schools. If your school contracts security, contact your security company for additional people. Be very careful in this regard that your security company fully checks the backgrounds of all their staff including temporary hires.

- E. **Alert the Director of Transportation.** Make sure that the maximum number of buses are available, even if some must be pulled out of routine maintenance. Inspect all buses to insure that there has been no tampering. Pay close attention to fuel tanks and electrical systems. Provide increased security of buses during non-school hours. Be sure that your [Crisis Response Plan](#) has evacuation procedures that include routes and alternate secondary locations.
- F. **Conduct a passive inspection** of your facilities daily. Maintenance and custodial personnel are very familiar with how things should look, use them to walk through and around each building looking for anything out of place. Teachers should observe their classrooms with the same familiarity. **DO NOT INVESTIGATE** anything that is considered out of place. Notify law enforcement and allow them to take that step. **Note:** *if a [School Site Safety Survey](#) has not been conducted act today...this will reveal areas of concern and vulnerabilities.*
- G. **Notify Food Services** that conditions could result in a lock-down or evacuation to alternate site. Having snack foods on hand that could be delivered to rooms or to an alternate site could make the difference in how well students handle the situation. Schools maybe required to maintain students and should have two days supply of food and water on-hand. Inform workers to halt ALL receiving of Food Products. All Food Service products and Vending Machine products should be inspected for tampering or turned off.
- H. **Review your Crisis Plans** to insure that Homeland Security measures are considered and incorporated as needed.
- I. **Conduct an After Action Review** at each level once the danger has passed to identify any weaknesses or improvements needed.

## **About Keys To Safer Schools.com**

**Keys** is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to helping schools and communities detect, prevent, mitigate and recover from violence. The services provided by **Keys** rely heavily upon National Violence Research. These services and materials have been used by agencies in every state and a number of nations such as Japan, Canada, Sweden, France, South Africa and others. The **MISSION** of **Keys** is to assist organizations in enhancing their student safety through [training](#), information and materials. *Following is a sample list of services that others have reported as valuable in their Violence Prevention Programs. A complete list is available on our comprehensive website-<http://KeysToSaferSchools.com>.*

### **CRISIS ACTION TRAINING & WORKSHOP**

The focus of this workshop is to produce a Crisis Action/Response Manual for the school district. Community Agencies and school personnel are brought together in the development of the Crisis Action/Response Manual along with School Checklists for each school in the district. Both a printed version and an electronic copy of the final plan are presented to the school. Do you have a crisis plan or have you exercised your crisis plan lately?



### **HOMELAND SECURITY CODES AND SPECIFIC TASKS SCHOOL MUST ENACT**

Does your school know what to do--specifically--when Homeland Security announces a Terror Alert Color Code? School Administrators have enough on their plates now without having to become Terrorism Experts. **Keys To Safer Schools.com** provides a training designed to familiarize school staffs with the realities of international terrorism and specific actions that can be taken (with budget restrictions in mind) by the school to enhance the safety of their students. This training will present concrete actions in the areas of; *Crisis Planning Integrated with First Responders, Student Transportation, Food Service, Vending Machines, Traffic Control, Buses and much more...* As with all **Keys** training, this information is based on research and first-hand experience; it is not theory but practical procedures that can be put in place today.

### **ANGER MANAGEMENT AND THE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS STUDENT**

Learn to recognize anger before it erupts. Develop skills on managing anger in the PDS, starting from *verbal* and moving to *non-pain inducing physical restraint techniques* for those thrown into having to breaking up a fight among students.

**If your school needs training, publications or other materials to enhance and insure the safety of your students and staff, we have the **Keys** that will meet your needs. Contact us today!**

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