

SchoolSAFE Communications as Colorado Community Partner

As a provider of interoperable communications in Colorado schools, SchoolSAFE Communications is recognized in section 22-32-109.1(1)(b.5), C.R.S., as a community partner. SchoolSAFE is aligned with all other community partners -- local fire departments, state and local law enforcement agencies, local 911 agencies, Safe2Tell, local emergency medical service personnel, local mental health organizations, local public health agencies, local emergency management personnel, local and regional homeland security personnel, and School Resource Officers -- in promoting safe schools and Colorado's School Response Framework. As a community partner, SchoolSAFE helps school districts and schools:

1. Enter into memoranda of understanding with the community partners specifying responsibilities for responding to incidents;
2. Create an all-hazard exercise program based on NIMS, and conduct exercises in collaboration with community partners from multiple disciplines and multiple jurisdictions to practice and assess preparedness and communications interoperability with community partners;
3. Hold coordinated exercises among school employees and community partners, including orientation meetings, all-hazard drills, tabletop exercises, functional exercises, and full-scale exercises;
4. Conduct evaluations following the exercises, and address lessons learned and corrective actions in updating response plans and procedures;
5. Inventory emergency equipment and test communications equipment and its interoperability with affected state and local agencies;
6. Adopt written procedures for taking action and communicating with local law enforcement agencies, community emergency services, and others in the event of school incidents;
7. Complete courses provided by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute;
8. Update and revise all standard operating procedures, ensuring that all aspects of NIMS are incorporated, including policies and principles, planning, procedures, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation, and corrective actions;
9. Assess overall alignment and compliance with NIMS; identify requirements already met; establish a baseline for NIMS compliance; and determine action steps, including developing a plan and timeline, to achieve and maintain all NIMS goals; and
10. Familiarize school resource officers with the School Response Framework, and the all-hazard exercise program and interoperable communications of the schools to which they are assigned.