

OREGON TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL SAFETY



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SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER

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Oregon Legislature Establishes School Safety Task Force

During its brief 2014 session, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 4087, to establish a Task Force on School Safety. The bill, which was signed by Governor John Kitzhaber on April 8, created a 14-member working group to examine steps that can be taken to improve safety and security at schools across the state.

This legislation was inspired by the active shooter incident at Clackamas Town Center on December 11, 2012, which was followed within a week by the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Over the past 20 months, there have been a total of 74 school shootings nationwide, including one at Reynolds High School in Troutdale this past June.

As specified in HB 4087, the task force is made up of representatives from the legislature, the governor's office, as well as the education and public safety communities. A complete roster of the task force members appears at the left side of this page.

The task force has been assigned four specific tasks to complete, as follows:

- Develop a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Oregon State Police (OSP) to hire a contractor that will develop a statewide database of school floor plans, accessible to public safety officials via the Internet.
- Make recommendations to the OSP regarding the administrative rules that that will govern the use of the database, such as: identifying the persons and agencies that will be given access to the database; determining how the database will be maintained and updated; and, establishing how database records will be added or modified.
- Examine existing training programs for first responders and school employees related to school safety and incident response.
- Review protocols that have been developed and implemented elsewhere and determine whether or not it would be both practical and beneficial to establish a statewide incident response model.



Men pause to pray at an impromptu shrine to the victims of the Reynolds High School shooting in Troutdale on June 10. *Photo courtesy KXL News Radio.*

The goal is to help schools prepare not only for active shooter incidents, but other emergencies, as well, such as: fires, flooding and severe weather.

The task force held its first meeting on August 4 at the Public Safety Academy in Salem. Its term will officially expire on the first day of the Oregon Legislature's regular session in 2017.

Among the top priorities for the task force will be to develop a Request For Proposals (RFP) to begin the process of identifying a vendor to develop a statewide database of floor plans. This process has begun with task force members learning about systems and standards used by different local agencies around Oregon, and in other states.

Additional programs likely to be reviewed are the following: the All Hazards program in Lincoln County, the Salem/Keizer School District Threat Assessment protocol, Lines For Life, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security "Run, Hide, Fight" active shooter response model, and others.

In order to keep members of the legislature, as well as the education and public safety communities apprised of its progress, the task force will be publishing this newsletter as often as is warranted by its progress.

Task Force Looks North to Washington for Example of Mapping System

At its first meeting on August 4, the Oregon Task Force on School Safety (OTFSS) heard a presentation from Bruce Kuennen, the Manager of Tactical Operations Support from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Kuennen gave the task force an overview of the state's Critical Incident Planning and Mapping System (CIPMS), launched in response to the Columbine High School active shooter incident in 1999. Over 11 years, the Washington State Legislature funded \$21 million to map every school in the state, from kindergarten to high school.



There are approximately 2,100 schools in Washington State — compared with 1,250 in Oregon — and, of those, about one-third have been mapped twice to update the database following remodeling and new construction.

In addition, funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been used to create maps for the state legislature, SeaTac airport, CenturyLink and Safeco fields, as well as courthouses, hospitals and other public buildings.

CIPMS provides detailed information to first responders, including pre-planned tactical scenarios, satellite and geospatial imagery, interior and exterior photographs, floor plans, staging areas, hazardous material alerts, utility shut-off locations and evacuation routes. This information is available via the Internet to every law enforcement agency and fire department in the state.

The annual operating budget for the system is \$500,000, which includes 1.5 full-time employees at WASPC, as well as Applications Service Provider (ASP) costs.

Management at schools and other public facilities keep information up to date by making changes to the database, such as contact names and information, as well as revised emergency plans. New and remodeled sites are added to the system at a cost of \$0.16 per square foot. As an example, a small elementary school (approximately 40,000 square feet) would cost about \$6,400 to map.

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5097, which required the addition of a reporting capacity to CIPMS. Over the past seven years, schools have reported about 50,000 drills, exercises and actual incidents — such as lockdowns, bomb threats, medical emergencies and fires — using the system.

Noteworthy events include an active shooter incident at Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, a bomb threat at Evergreen High School in Vancouver, a warehouse fire in Kelso and a threatened attack against the Thurston County Courthouse.

In each of these incidents, the system and the pre-planned tactical scenarios that it includes contributed to the swift and effective resolution of the situation.

At a Glance:

Oregon's K-12 Schools

Schools Statewide

Elementary Schools	590
K-8 Schools	109
Middle Schools	190
High Schools	204
Alternative Schools	73
Charter Schools	82
TOTAL	1,248

School Buildings Statewide

Student Occupied	3,066
Non-Student Occupied	2,883
TOTAL	5,949

Statewide Metrics

Total Student-Occupied (ft ²)	75,912,120
Average Student-Occupied (ft ²)	75,610
Total Enrolled Students (2010)	561,698
Mean School Building Age (years)	40.7
Median School Building Age (years)	39.0

SOURCES: McGraw-Hill (1997-2005), PACE Insurance Data, NCEF website, Common Core Enrollment Data and Oregon Department of Education Annual Reports. Reports prepared by Grant Struck, PSU Graduate Student in Economics.

Roberts, Evans Elected to Lead Task Force

During its first meeting on August 4, the Oregon Task Force on School Safety (OTFSS) elected Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts to serve as the chair of the committee, and Oregon State Police Superintendent Richard Evans to serve as vice chair.

Roberts and Evans have been working side-by-side to improve the safety of Oregon's schools after the Clackamas Town Center active shooter incident in December 2012. Following that incident, they began to look for ways to improve safety at the mall and other large, public buildings.

Roberts is a lifelong Clackamas County resident. He was first elected sheriff in 2004 and has won re-election twice. He began his career with the organization as a reserve deputy in 1979 and was hired full-time in 1982. Roberts has worked as a patrol deputy, undercover narcotics investigator and a detective assigned to child abuse and child homicide cases.

Richard Evans, Jr., was confirmed as the 12th superintendent of the Oregon State Police by the Oregon Senate on May 23, 2012. He began his career with OSP in 1988 and was appointed as deputy superintendent on November 1, 2010.

