



Education First –
Safety A



April 2017

WSSCA Newsletter

The "news you can use" periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals



Note: WSSCA has recognized that mental health is an element of ensuring school safety that we must address and be prepared to support. Indeed, it is one of our three organization goals. Recently I was told that one of our WSSCA board members was looking for information on dealing with a student death. Barbara Dorff, WSSCA Board Advisor, and retired Executive Director for Student Services is a recognized expert in addressing the ways that school personnel can most effectively help, students and colleagues cope with and overcome the severe effects of grief following the death of a child, friend or colleague. This is the second installment of a three-part series from Barbara.

Coping with the Death of a Student:

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Part 2: Ways to Help Students Deal with Death

In part 1 of this three-part series of articles the ways in which children and adolescents understanding the concept of death and the behaviors that might be accompany their grieving were discussed. In this second article the ways that one may be able to help students who are dealing with the death of another student will be considered.

Much of the information the children receive about the passing of another student will probably come from their classroom teachers or parents. Many facilities staff members, who are in buildings year after year, may also have developed special relationships with the students in their care and these children may turn to them for information and comfort outside of the classroom setting. What can you do to help?

You can help by listening and connecting to those students. Students are most comfortable with adults they know and look to them as a source of support. If students reach out to you for support, let them know you are there for them and encourage them to express their feelings. Greet them warmly when you see them. Acknowledge that we are all sad about what happened.

You are not expected to provide counseling; instead, refer students to student services, their teachers or administrator when you have concerns. Your observations of student behavior throughout the school may put you in the position of being able to help students access additional support services.

Perhaps the child who has passed away is one with whom you have had a relationship over the years. You also need to take care of your own needs. Take advantage of the Employee Assistance program, if your district has one. Seek out help and support for yourself, if needed.

Cleaning out the student's locker or desk or removing the student's pictures and artwork too soon should be avoided. It is important to wait a bit until staff and

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students seem ready. On the other hand, leaving an empty desk too long can also be disturbing. A good rule of thumb is leaving the desk empty for 5 to 7 days. It is best if another student is not assigned to the empty desk so, if possible, rearranging the desks or chairs into an entirely new configuration is very helpful. You may be asked to assist in these tasks or even better, offer this information to the teacher and volunteer to assist in the rearranging after a week or so.

Part 3 will address best practice around student memorials and funerals.

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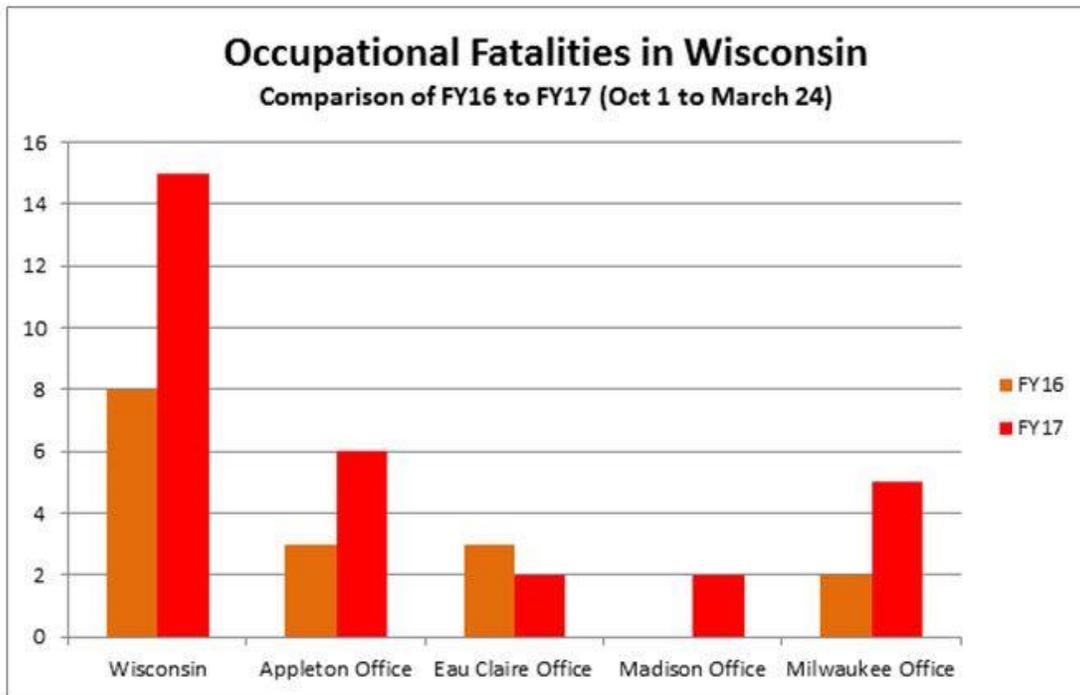
Note: This disturbing notice came to me last week. You may have received it as well, and while we, in Wisconsin Schools, primarily align our work to regulations from DSPS rather than OSHA, the information is still relevant. ED

15 Wisconsin Worker Deaths Since October 1, 2016

March 24, 2017 - Employers and employees are urged to use extreme care and safety diligence in all work activities. The information below shares preliminary details about the most recent occupational fatality reported to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the State of Wisconsin. The description reflects information provided to OSHA at the initial report of the incident and is not the result of the official OSHA investigation.

Preliminary Summary of Incident: *On March 23, 2017, an employee was fatally injured after falling from a ladder approximately seven feet to a concrete floor below. At the time of the fall the employee was drilling weep holes overhead into a precast concrete ceiling.*

This most recent fatality is another unfortunate and heartbreaking loss for Wisconsin businesses and families. It also represents an alarming increase, roughly 88%, in the amount of workplace fatalities over the same period of time last year.



WSSCA / DPI School Safety and Security Certification Course Class of 2017

Congratulations to the most recent graduates of the School Safety and Security Certification Course. The following people received their Diploma at the 49th Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells on March 7, 2017:

Mitch Breed

Jason Dropik

Donald Erickson

Bill Foust

Benjamin Gappa

Lowell Kellogg

John Koster

Dan Laren

Steve Van Dyke

John Linneman

Pat Meyer

Billie Jo Mohn

Michael Nowak

Brian Pepler

Terry Poulter

Jason Showen

Mike Swenson



REMINDER



Our next professional learning opportunity is scheduled for April.

Certification Course Modules 5 and 10

April 25, 2017

Holiday Inn Madison at The American Center
Madison, WI 53718

[Click to Register](#)



Note: Yes, it's that time of year again. I've reprinted a news release I received from Wisconsin Emergency Management. ED

Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 17 - 21, 2017

(MADISON) – Schools, businesses, families, and individuals have two opportunities to test their emergency plans during statewide tornado drills

on April 20, 2017. The drills are part of the annual spring severe weather campaign to encourage everyone in Wisconsin to be ready for possible tornadoes and severe weather.

Governor Walker has declared April 17-21, 2017 as Wisconsin's Tornado & Severe Weather Awareness Week. Wisconsin Emergency Management, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) have once again teamed up to sponsor the statewide tornado drills scheduled for Thursday, April 20.

On April 20th, a mock tornado watch will be issued at 1:00 p.m. followed by a statewide mock tornado warning at 1:45 p.m. Many radio and TV stations across the state will issue the test tornado warnings. In addition, mock alerts will be issued on NOAA Weather Radios and many communities will sound their tornado sirens to test their emergency severe weather plans. Later, a mock tornado warning will be issued at 6:45 p.m. to give families and second shift workers a chance to practice their emergency plans.

According to the NWS, Wisconsin averages 23 tornadoes annually. Last year, there were 16 tornado touchdowns in the state. All of the tornadoes were either an EF0 or EF1. However, it's not a question of if we will have a violent storm, it's a matter of when.

The tornado drill will take place even if the sky is cloudy, dark and or rainy. If actual severe storms are expected in the state on Thursday, April 20, the tornado drills will be postponed until Friday, April 21 with the same times. If severe storms are possible Friday, the drills will be cancelled.

Any changes will be issued to local media as well as posted on the ReadyWisconsin website at <http://readywisconsin.wi.gov>. Updates will also be posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ReadyWisconsin), Twitter (www.twitter.com/ReadyWisconsin), and Instagram (www.instagram.com/ReadyWisconsin).

Click here for full media kit:

http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/news/2017/Tornado2017Media_Packet.pdf

Mark Your Calendar!

WSSCA's 50th Anniversary Conference and Expo

February 26 - 27, 2018

The 49th Conference is still fresh in our minds and we are still gathering the evaluations, final financial details and other follow-up data. The 49th was quite successful by all preliminary accounts and hard on the heels of that fine event, I encourage you to mark your calendar for next year's 50th Anniversary Conference and Expo.

Through the generosity of WSSCA Member and Friend, Dave Trudeau of TruArmor LLC, our keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. I know that Col. Grossman is well-known to many who are tasked with safety and security, and he is sure to be a big draw. I anticipate great interest in the 50th, and our Professional Development and Communication Committees will be working hard in planning for the 50th.



Quotes of the Month

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

Colin Powell

“You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over.”

Richard Branson

Borrowed Humor

April is actually designated as, "Humor Month." That has to be someone's idea of a hilariously sick joke considering what April 15th means to us.



School Safety Certification 2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location
5&10	Sound Risk Management Practices Emergency Response Practicum - Register at WSSCA.org .	April 25, 2017	Madison, WI
1&6	Health and Safety Compliance Part A General Aspects of Crisis Management	October 2017	To be determined

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