

# Improving Safety During High Risk Activities

HARRY SCHAEFFER AND TANYA GUILD

1

## Session Outline

- What Makes an Activity High Risk
- HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES
  - Facilities
  - Other Things to Consider
  - Safety Related Policies and Procedures
  - Investigations
  - Safety Guidelines
  - Questions/Comments

2

## What Makes an Activity High Risk

You have to decide which activities are high risk  
Agency and individual specific

\*\*High risk activities result in high risk events

example – mealtime (feeding) > choking

example – transportation > vehicle accidents

Improving safety during high risk activities requires you to  
reduce the risk  
improve interventions

3

## HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES

4

## Handling Challenging Behaviors

What are your procedural responses to the following?

- ↻ suicidal ideation
- ↻ aggression/assault (physical & sexual)
- ↻ threats
- ↻ missing students/elopement

5

## Bullying

Anti-bullying policy, procedures & curriculum

Cyberbullying- What do you use for digital citizenship training/ curriculum?

<https://www.iste.org/explore/digital-citizenship/9-resources-teaching-digital-citizenship>

6

## Lockdowns

1. soft & hard lockdown
  - a. preparations
    - <https://www.crisisgo.com/offers/safe-classroom>
    - <https://www.ruvna.com/>
  - a. during
  - b. After
2. tools in emergency backpacks

7

## Emergency Operations

- It is always about the real event
- Create real scenarios to practice
- Staff should do what they have been taught to do
- Always debrief
- Consult with local fire and police
- Are there unattended (independent) students?
- Is everyone accounted for?
- Risks associated with practice
- How does event start and end
- Community emergency
- Communications

8

## Medical Events and Emergencies

- The right experience
- Staff training
- Practice for high risk situations
- Include local resources in those practices
- Sequence for communications
- Cardiac arrest (CPR, 911, defib, DNR)
- Serious injury

9

## Evacuations

- What to take?
- Where to go?
  - agreements
- How to get there?
- Fire
  - fire extinguishers
- Bomb threat
- Weather

10

## By the Numbers

- 27 incidents in 16 states
- 213 casualties – excluding the shooters
- 85 killed 2 law enforcement officers 1 unarmed security officer
- 128 wounded 6 law enforcement officers
- 27 shooters – 23 male, 3 female, 1 at large
  - 10 committed suicide 11 apprehended by police 4 killed by police
  - 1 killed by citizens 1 at large
- 9 incidents ended with the exchange of gunfire between the shooters and law enforcement

11

## Active Shooter

- Announcement & Training
- Run, Hide, Fight (HS) vs. Run, Hide Survive (Elem & MS)
- Challenges with practicing for this event
- Arming staff
- <https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources>

12

## Transportation

- Vehicle safety equipment
- Vehicle inspections
- Vehicle maintenance
- Seat Belts
- Lifts and other equipment
- Driver training and experience
- Motor vehicle accidents

13

## Other High Risk Activities

- Lifting and transfers
- Responsible risk as part of daily activities
- Safety vs human rights (gps tracker, bed)
- Activities in or near water
- Mealtime/Food
- Fill in staff, volunteers and summer employees
- Medication administration
- Outdoor activities

14

## Facilities and Equipment

- Trust health and fire professionals
- Inspect all buildings and equipment regularly
- Be proactive not reactive when it comes to repair

15

## Facility Inspection

- Emergency exits blocked
- Excessive use of extension cords
- Cracked outlets
- Broken windows/peeling paint
- Mold (ceiling tiles)
- Toxic cleaning supplies easily accessible
- Broken furniture
- Torn carpets

16

## Have You Considered?

- Abduction
- Aircraft Crash
- Civil Demonstrations
- Hazardous Materials Release
- Structural Failure

17

## Safety Related Policies and Procedures

- Keep them simple
- Build in safeguards and opportunities to prevent errors
- Location and availability of policies
- Policy review and revision

18

## Investigations

- What, When, How, Why, Who
- Incident Reporting
- Root Cause Conversations
- Don't play the blame game
- Honestly and thoroughly investigate all incidents
- Process Improvement
- Share safety findings and root cause recommendations

19

## Leader's Guide to Safety

Leadership creates the culture  
 Don't rely on being lucky  
 Not knowing what you don't know is not an excuse  
 Expectations  
 Meetings  
 No compromise  
 Seek input from staff (employee surveys and complaints)  
 Safety committee  
 Employees need to know leadership has their back

20

## More Guidelines

Transparency and accountability  
 Practice matters  
 Communicate precisely and clearly and often  
 Be assertive about safety concerns and escalate appropriately  
 Sweat the small stuff  
 Make safety part of classroom (performance) observations

21

## Final Thoughts

Leaders set the agenda and create the culture – you decide how important safety is in your organization  
 Make safety the "FIRST" thought not the "afterthought"  
 Identify your high risk activities and try to reduce the risk  
 Anticipate, prepare for and practice for incidents resulting from high risk activities  
 Include safety in strategic planning, quality assurance, quality improvement and process improvement

22

## Questions/Comments

Harry Schaeffer – [hschaeffer10@gmail.com](mailto:hschaeffer10@gmail.com)  
 Tanya Guild – [tanyajkim@gmail.com](mailto:tanyajkim@gmail.com)

23