

Evaluation of a School-based Emergency Response and Management Project

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Introduction

Early in the decade, school systems developed plans For disasters or other crises effecting the school.

Plans often developed by core group, with limited role of all personnel or community partners.

By mid decade, emergency plans were largely forgotten.

Intro, cont.

Since 9/11, the U.S. DOE has funded schools to improve emergency response capabilities.

This presentation is about one such project in rural districts in Kentucky.

Intervention Setting

- 11 rural school districts
- 77 schools
- 37,000 pupils
- Project period October, 2005- March, 2007



The Intervention

- ❑ Identify gaps in existing plans
 - ❑ On-site inspections of schools and communities
 - ❑ On-line safety survey of personnel
 - ❑ Targeted training: train-the-trainer model
 - ❑ Development of revised emergency plans
 - ❑ Engagement of community partners
 - ❑ School-wide distribution of plans
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The Evaluation

- Government Performance and Results Act Criteria (GPRA)
 - Increased number of hazards addressed by improved emergency response plans
 - Improved response time and quality
 - Sustainability and continuous improvement
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Addressing more hazards

- Key informant exit interviews
 - Winter 07
 - Participants
 - Safety team leaders
 - Superintendents
 - Community responders

Improved response times

- District response times; winter 06 – winter 07
 - Data points
 - Fire drills
 - Lock down drills
 - Tornado drills
 - Police response times
 - Procedure
 - Schools routinely test and store data
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Sustainability

- Key informant exit interviews
 - Evidence of National Incident Management System (NIMS) training
 - Process evaluation of training
 - Inventory of structural / procedural changes
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Project Achievements

- Identification of unique local hazards
 - New plans address
 - Extensive training of personnel
 - Engagement of school personnel with community partners
 - Full compliance with NIMS training requirements
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Achievements, cont.

- Plan distribution to all school personnel
 - Structural / procedural changes
 - Door and window signage
 - New lock systems
 - Window signal systems
 - Visitor tracking procedures
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Evaluation problems

- Difficult to quantify measures
- Multiple district model difficult to maintain data procedures integrity
- Personnel web-based survey unreliable
- Long term continuation