

White Paper
Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools (ISCRS)

History of ISCRS:

In May of 2018, first responders (Police and Fire), school district officials (public, charter and private schools) across Ada and Canyon County, the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security, and Ada County Emergency Management formed the Treasure Valley School Safety Committee. The Committee assessed and compared their all-hazards and all-threats based school emergency plans and procedures that were in use throughout the Treasure Valley. This effort coincided and supported the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security's ongoing mission to perform statewide comprehensive threat and vulnerability assessments on school campuses and provide training and support to improve school preparedness.

The Committee quickly determined that virtually every jurisdiction/School District had plans and protocols in place for dealing with school emergencies. However, there were variations in the basic terminology and procedures found in these plans, as well as different priorities and perspectives among responders and emergency services personnel when it came to preparing for and responding to school emergencies. The determination was made that an enduring partnership needed to be in place to facilitate a consistent and multi-disciplinary approach to making our schools safer. A social factor that leads to significant challenges is the high mobility rate of both students and teachers throughout the state. As a result, school staff and students are expected to follow different emergency response procedures in their new school environments, severely limiting their ability to recall and follow emergency procedures when necessary.

As its first order of business, the Committee expanded its reach to additional first responder organizations and school districts across the state to collect their input and enlist their support in developing standardized emergency response procedures for the schools in their districts. Understanding that a long-term engagement of technical support to planning, training and exercising was critical, the Committee decided to start its work with a focus on standardizing protocols and concepts for the initial protective actions a school should take during an emergency situation or heightened threat environment. This focus led to the development of the Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools (ISCRS), the flexible framework for initial response by a school population. The committee has since developed a training program to support ISCRS as well as a presenters guide to assist those providing training to different school communities in maintaining consistent messaging of concepts, protocols, and terminology.

Purpose of ISCRS:

- Standardizes and share a common group of clear, initial responses applicable to a broad variety of K-12 school environments.
- Provides four (4) limited and unambiguous protocols in a standardized framework which each school, school district, and surrounding community can easily incorporate into their respective school and/or jurisdictional Emergency Operations Plans (EOP).
- Offers distinct operational procedure(s) that may be enacted in series or succession.

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- Accounts for the “in Loco Parentis” responsibilities of school staff, i.e., the legal and ethical responsibility to “stand in the place of the parents” for a child.
- Acknowledges the mobile nature of modern education and student populations.
- Allows for sustainability by providing free training and materials.
- Draws from familiar procedures (examples: Run/Hide/Fight, Avoid/Deny/Defend, CRASE etc), existing training/experience, and prevalent lessons learned from past school-related emergencies.
- Strengthens partnerships among school communities and first responders to build and enhance a culture of safety and preparedness.
- NOTE: ISCRS has been designed for schools and doesn’t impact or alter police/fire response.

ISCRS Protocols:

The approach to training schools on the Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools focuses on training for administrators, teachers and students for the IMMEDIATE response to a threat and/or hazard. The command responses can be enacted in series or succession. The command responses focus on the following:

- EVACUATION
 - Removing students and staff from dangerous situations inside a building.
 - Staff are expected to be aware of their surroundings and make decisions based on active awareness of circumstances
 - Movement must be safe, controlled and intentional.
- REVERSE EVACUATION
 - Removing students and staff from dangerous situations outside a building.
 - This command response can be used for the following:
 - Dangers on the playground or outside,
 - Law enforcement activity or other emergencies.
 - Instituted at the discretion of the principal/designee for any situation that poses a threat to the life safety of students, staff or visitors.
- HALLCHECK
 - Detecting and protecting from potential threats while continuing instruction
 - Procedure for responding to lower level threat inside a school
 - Focus on a high level of active awareness
 - Examples of when this command response would be used:
 - Disruptive person,
 - unknown person on campus,
 - out of control student,
 - medical issue or
 - Any other unknown situation in and/or around a school building.

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- LOCKDOWN - MOVE/SECURE/DEFEND
 - Procedures for staff and student to respond to an imminent threat or active violence inside a school.
 - Options based approach that allows each individual to process information and make a decision.

ISCRS and the Continued Work:

The committee understands that school safety and security is an ongoing process and is continuing to reach out to first responders and their respective school districts around the state to educate them on ISCRS and provide information to those interested in ISCRS. At the same time the committee understands that some jurisdictions or districts are set on using the procedures they have in place, but the committee is available and willing to provide the procedures to anyone who is interested or in need of standardize emergency response procedures for their schools/district. The overall goal is to try and standardize school emergency procedures for the betterment of all Idaho schools and their surrounding communities.

For the upcoming school year (2019-2020), ISCRS will be implemented into schools throughout Ada County, Canyon County, Pocatello, Preston, Cassia County, Bonneville County, Soda Springs and Jerome. In the coming months, members of the consortium will be collaborating with Rexburg, Minidoka County, Cache County (Utah), Idaho Falls and other areas around the state. Also, area PIO's will be sharing information on ISCRS so that all parts of Idaho are aware of the procedures and have the opportunity and/or ability to obtain additional information.

Special thanks to the agencies and school districts that helped or have supported in the development of this project:

Meridian Police Department	Idaho Office of School Safety & Security
Meridian Fire Department	Ada County Emergency Management
Ada County Sheriff's Office	West Ada School District
Nampa Police Department	Nampa School District
Nampa Fire Department	Boise School District
Boise Police Department	Kuna School District
Boise Fire Department	Middleton School District
Eagle Fire & Rescue	Cassia School District
Star Fire Department	Caldwell School District
Caldwell Police Department	Vallivue School District
Canyon County Sheriff's Office	Homedale School District
Pocatello Police Department	Melba School District
Pocatello Fire Department	Soda Springs School District
Cassia County Sheriff's Office	Jerome school district
Preston Police Department	Preston Joint School District
Idaho State Police	Bonneville Joint School District

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Bonneville Sheriff's Office
Minidoka County Sheriff's Office

St. Ignatius Catholic School
Ambrose School

Thank you to our local government leaders for their ongoing support.