

GEORGETOWN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

December 2014



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SC TO IMPLEMENT NEW SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

Improvements to school safety in South Carolina will be a priority in 2015, according to Alan Walters, Director of Safety and Risk Management. Walters testified at a hearing of the SC School Safety Task Force in Columbia in November about the need for school districts to work with local and state emergency responders to develop and practice their emergency management plans. The Task Force will present its recommendations to the General Assembly when it convenes in January. "There are 68 recommendations in the report that range from mental health assessments to changes in existing law that would allow for all-hazard drills like lockdowns or tornado drills to be substituted for fire drills every other month," Walters said. One recommendation is to have each school district form a Safety and Security Committee consisting of a district

administrator or emergency manager, representatives of each public safety agency in the district, and the county emergency preparedness director or designee. "Our district has been doing that for some time, and we've found it to be very productive," said Walters.

The State Department of Education has received a grant for *Enhancing School Emergency Operations Plans in South Carolina*, a program that will provide training and resources for districts to develop and practice effective emergency plans. Walters has been asked to serve on that group, along with representatives from SLED, SC Emergency Management, the US Attorney's Office and other agencies. The group met in early December to begin work on the 18-month project that will also lead to the reestablishing of the South Carolina Center for Safe Schools.



CROSSING GUARDS

Regardless if it is 90 or 20 degrees, sunny or cold, dry or raining, twice daily the Crossing/Traffic Guards touch the lives of students and our lives in a very important way. They do this by safely guiding students across busy streets occupied by traffic that is not always attentive to what is in front of them. These folks also direct traffic in and out of school entrances at the busiest part of the day working hard to keep traffic running as smoothly and safely as possible. The photo at right was taken during a breakfast hosted by the Risk and Safety Department in appreciation for the

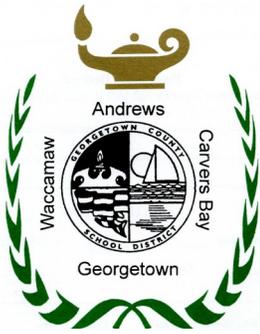


great job these employees do. Dr. Dozier and Dr. Pringle also attended and expressed their appreciation for everyone's commitment to safety. **Let's give them all a round of applause.**

SAFETY

Ask Yourself! IS IT REALLY SAFE?





SAFETY AND SECURITY IS A PRIORITY FOR PHES

Safety and Security is a priority for our school district and as we all know classroom doors are to be kept locked at all times. This includes when there are students in the classroom, just a teacher or only teachers and when the classroom is empty. Closets, storage rooms and custodial room

doors are some of the other doors that are to be kept locked. To ensure that this procedure is followed the Safety and Risk Management Department conducts door checks. With this in mind, our hats go off to Pleasant Hill Elementary School, said David Adams. "A recent door check conducted by Cleveland Graham (Pictured) produced a perfect score. No door opens." This made Principal Teddy Graham (Pictured) very happy as he announced this to his faculty he said "Well

done staff and students. While keeping your doors closed and locked may seem like a small thing it affects security in a big way."
Well done PHES we appreciate all you do to keep both our children and faculty safe and secure.

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HOW DO YOU VIEW SAFETY?

It has been said that life can be understood by looking back but that it must be lived by looking ahead. That is true also when it comes to our safety and security. By looking at past accidents and situations we have a chance to change our work habits. So, instead of worrying about the past, we should be concerned about the present and the future. As we come to work and throughout the workday ask yourself: "Could I have done more in order to work safely? What prevents me from working safely and keep my door

locked? Have I made a real effort to insure that my classroom or work area is safe and secure? Am I the sort of person who thinks safety and security is someone else's problem?" Instead of just worrying about such sobering questions, we want to use them to analyze ourselves and make sure that we are giving our best when it comes to safety and security. Otherwise, we could be continuing in a way of life that may result in regrets.

HOW TO AVOID SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

Next to traffic accidents, Falls Kill More People than any other kind of accident! It's a fact; millions of people are injured in falls every year. When suffering, medical expenses, lost wages and lost production are considered, falls become costly accidents.

At work, most falls are caused by slips or trips at floor level, not from high places.

Avoid Slips, Trips and Falls - Good Housekeeping means Safety.

Make it a Habit!

- 1. Furniture:** Arrange furniture in classrooms, offices or homes in an organized manner, to avoid potential falls.
- 2. Materials:** It's hazardous to store materials in hallways and aisles. Materials should be stored in closets, cabinets or storerooms.
- 3. Electrical Cords:** Avoid extension cords if possible, but if you must use one, never place it in a walking area.
- 4. Equipment and Toys:** Teach children to put their equipment and toys away.
"There's nothing like a ride on a toy for a fast fall"
- 5. Untidy Floors:** Any small thing (i.e. pencil, piece of fabric, book or box) can cause a BIG fall.
- 6. Drawers:** Keep them closed even when you think it's unlikely someone would bump into them.
- 7. Obstacles:** If it's in the way, move it or walk around it, avoid stepping over it.



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SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT