



# School Safety Summit

Interoperable Communications in Schools

Colorado State Capitol

Old Supreme Court Chambers

Friday, March 25, 2011

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Sen. Steve King, Chair



## **Improve Your School With Safety**

### **Cut Costs, Build Public Trust, Boost Academic Achievement**

This module is divided into specific sections and the presenter will notify you when moving into each section to make the presentation easier to follow, understand and retain in spite of the volume of information presented.

This handout and presentation begin with an overview of the six sections that will be covered during the presentation. Each section begins with a space for the attendee to write down the key points for each section within the module to improve retention of the information and a place to write down and other information you find interesting from each section. As appropriate, sections may include additional information identified as "detailed content" containing text content that attendees might want to retain without rushing to write it down while trying to listen and participate. This teaching and handout style has been developed specifically by Safe Havens using research based concepts to dramatically improve attendee retention and is also designed to make the session more enjoyable for attendees. We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have to improve our presentation style, handouts or specific content.

We hope you find this session to be helpful and worth your time and we thank you for your efforts to make our schools safer.

#### **Free Resources**

Colorado School Safety Resource Center - [www.safeschools.state.co.us](http://www.safeschools.state.co.us)

School Safety Summit - [www.SchoolSafetySummit.org](http://www.SchoolSafetySummit.org)

Federal Emergency Management Agency - [training.fema.gov/IS/](http://training.fema.gov/IS/)

United States Department of Education - [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Safe Havens International - [www.SafeHavensInternational.org](http://www.SafeHavensInternational.org)

- Crisis plan evaluation tool
- School safety grant resource list
- Tactical site survey checklist
- School safety plan template example
- Papers on various school safety topics
- Free E-newsletter
- Free E-book *Let None Learn in Fear*

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## **About Your Presenter, Michael Dorn**

Michael Dorn believes that children can learn more if they attend a safe, orderly school which provides a caring and supportive environment. He also believes that every person in this room has incredible power to profoundly affect the lives of children.

An international authority who has keynoted from Virginia to Vietnam, Michael Dorn serves as the Executive Director of Safe Havens International, Inc., a non-profit global school safety center. During his 25-year public safety career, he became a police officer at the age of 18, and was rapidly promoted three times before being appointed as the Chief of the Bibb County, Georgia School System Police Department at the age of 27. Michael was appointed as the School Safety Specialist of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency – Office of the Governor in August, 1999. In April, 2003, he was selected as the State Antiterrorism Planner and a few months later was named Lead Program Manager for the Terrorism Division in the Georgia Office of Homeland Security.

A prolific writer having authored and co-authored 25 books on school safety, Michael is a graduate of the 181<sup>st</sup> session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy. He was selected for a fellowship to participate in a delegation of law enforcement executives to the State of Israel in June of 1998 and received two weeks of intensive antiterrorism training by the Israel National Police, Israel Defense Forces, and the Mossad. Michael's work has taken him to Mexico, Canada, Central America, Europe, Asia, South Africa and the Middle East. Most importantly, Michael is the father of a beautiful 23 month old baby boy.

### **Sections covered in this module:**

- Safety and test scores
- Assessment based safety
- Examples of low cost high yield strategies
- Reliable preparedness approaches

### **Section One – Safety and Test Scores**

Key points:

- School safety and test scores are connected.
- Students cannot learn as well if they are afraid.
- Teachers cannot teach as well if they are in fear.
- Turnover due to fear and disruptions caused by safety incidents impacts test scores.

Other thoughts of interest:

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## **Section Two – Assessment Based Safety**

Key points:

- Surveys of students, parents and staff
- Incident data
- Red team assessments
- Tactical site survey

Other thoughts of interest:

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## **Section Three – Examples of Low-Cost High-Yield Strategies**

Key points:

- Improving student supervision
- Using pattern recognition
- Using CPTED in school design

Other thoughts of interest:

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## **Section Four – Reliable Preparedness Approaches**

Key points:

- Plan structure and approach
- Decision making
- Communications

Other thoughts of interest:

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# School Safety Open Forum

## Interoperable Communications in Schools

*Without imposing on Colorado schools any new mandate that would have a fiscal impact, all schools would benefit from the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies and entities, including the Governor's Office of Information Technology, the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Public Safety, and the School Safety Resource Center in the Department of Public Safety, to share best practices in emergency communications; identify the emergency communications needs at the school level; help target technical assistance, grants, and other support; and prepare schools and the public safety community for next-generation communications technologies.*

### **About Your Forum Moderator, Gary Oldham**

Gary Oldham is a nationally-recognized expert in public safety and interoperability with more than 30 years of government agency and private sector experience. He has worked for and with some of the nation's largest and most respected public safety agencies, including the Orange County (CA) Fire Department, San Diego Police and Fire Departments, Washington DC Metropolitan Police, Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue, and many others.

A California native, Oldham is a former police officer, fire manager, emergency medical technician, emergency manager, 9-1-1 dispatcher, communications center manager, and governmental agency department head. Among other agency posts in the public sector, he managed the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), a regional data sharing enterprise serving nearly 30 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Oldham's work as the Chairman of FIRESCOPE Communications Specialist Group directly contributed to the evolution of the Incident Command System and set groundbreaking standards for interoperability. He has led and been the primary decision maker on numerous public safety procurements for large agencies, ranging from radio networks and equipment to computer aided dispatch systems to emergency vehicle equipment.

Oldham is active in many professional organizations and has held numerous leadership roles in public safety associations. He is a frequent speaker and author, and is an award-winning photographer. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's prestigious Executive Development program. Prior to his relocation to Austin, Texas in 2006, he was based in the Washington, DC metro region for 11 years.

## **An Introduction to the Need for Interoperable Communications in Schools**

SB11-173, Interoperable Communications in Schools, is designed to help save lives, minimize personal injury, reduce property damage, and provide an invisible blanket of security over all our schools.

The communications component of incident response and management, particularly when that response and management crosses disciplines and jurisdictions, is critical enough to warrant dedicated legislation to encourage, promote, and ensure its actual and overt planning, exercising, equipping, and implementation.

Lack of interoperable communications has led to crisis response failure time and again. Examples include Columbine, 9/11, Katrina, and major tragic incidents around the world. Responders were unable to communicate with one another during the crisis. The main reason was that communications devices were unable to talk to one another.

Through interoperable communications in schools, those responding to a school incident who have a need to communicate with others can do so when needed within an established communications plan.

One of the game-changing lessons learned in 9/11 was that our traditional view of first responders as being law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services fell short. Depending on the nature of the emergency, "first responders" include public works, schools, public health, geographic information systems staff and others. School personnel have been formally included in that community through Colorado's SB08-181, bringing them into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS). Having recognized and identified school personnel as integral to the incident management system and process, it is now appropriate to close that loop by providing them the tools and cooperative response framework to work with and communicate with their traditional first responder public safety partners.

The efficacy of having planned, trained, and coordinated communicators and communications between school personnel and public safety staff has been demonstrated repeatedly. Pueblo County School District 70 has shown this through planning and exercises with the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and other responders, and demonstrations and exercises in other Colorado school districts and in other states have validated the premise as well. Having trained and equipped responders inside the school who know the layout, student locations, means of ingress and egress, and the location (and access) to the specific point of the emergency provide invaluable eyes and ears and intelligence to responding public safety that will save precious minutes and seconds and will save lives.