



# School Safety Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2013

## School Safety Information Sharing (SSIS) Program

The Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC), in partnership with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), established a program for sharing information as it relates to school safety with those whose job it is to protect students, employees, and infrastructure. This initiative, the School Safety Information Sharing Program (SSISP), promotes mutually collaborative communications, working relationships, partnerships, and information sharing.

Members have the benefit of access to:

- A dedicated K-12 and campus intelligence officer;
- For Official Use Only (FOUO) information for those who “need to know” to help aid in school and campus safety;
- Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information related to school and campus safety (sworn officers only);
- Situational Awareness on topics that affect safety at Illinois schools and campuses;
- Monthly newsletter outlining legislation in Illinois, grant opportunities, Illinois and national trends, and other material to help protect our future through information sharing;
- Monthly webinars.



Administrators, or those in charge of making safety decisions, as well as sworn police officers involved in school and campus safety are encouraged to join.

Those wishing to join this free program must complete the SSISP application and non-disclosure agreement. Please send inquiries to [schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us).

*A Chicago Tribune picture of the Illinois November 17, 2013, tornado's path through a corn field outside Washington, Illinois. Wishing all affected a fast recovery.*

*Protecting our  
future through  
information  
sharing*

## In This Issue

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## **Worried about weather related, public health, food-borne, accidental, intruders, crime, acts of violence or any other type of threat? Why Schools and Campuses should become compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).**

When the STIC's Fire Chief Intelligence Officer was asked why is NIMS important to schools and campuses, Chief Brian Wilson's response was "so that everyone speaks the same language during a major incident or a life threatening emergency." Very few schools and campus personnel are trained in emergency management. However, they provide a vital role in an emergency since they must be able to manage the incident until first responders arrive. School officials then work collaboratively with first responders until the emergency situation is resolved.

In March 2004, the Department of Homeland Security developed the first-ever standardized approach to incident management and response called the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS recognizes all-hazards preparedness is a shared responsibility of the whole community which includes individuals, families, businesses, faith-based and community organizations, nonprofit groups, schools and higher education institutions, media outlets, and all levels of government, including state, local, tribal, territorial and federal partners. Lessons learned from recent school and campus incidents show that the whole community, especially school and campus officials and local first responders, must be knowledgeable and trained to implement pre-established practices and procedures. By taking steps in advance to collaborate with local government and community partners, school and campus personnel can prevent and mitigate potential incidents as well as prepare-for, respond to, and recover from those that are unavoidable.

In Illinois, the Illinois School Safety Drill Act requires schools to perform six drills annually and the federal Jeanne Clery Act and the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008 require campuses to test emergency response and evacuation plans through drills and exercises. NIMS can help and improve existing school and campus drill requirements. Once a school or campus adopts NIMS, all drills and exercises can be practiced using the NIMS Incident Command System which will help education officials' work with emergency responders to provide an enhanced coordinated approach with the whole community. Following federal, state, and NIMS requirements, schools and campuses must document and evaluate the drill or exercise. Darryl Dragoo, a strategic planner for Illinois Emergency Management Agency, recommends schools and campuses reach out to their local city or county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) if they have any questions and also to invite their local EMA to participate in the emergency operations planning and adoption of the most effective crisis response protocols.

Another reason to become NIMS compliant is because all schools and campuses receiving federal preparedness monies are required to support the implementation of NIMS. However, since schools and campuses are tied heavily into their local communities, the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Education recommends all schools and campuses become NIMS compliant regardless if they are trying to receive federal emergency preparedness funds.

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## **Monthly Webinars!**

First Wednesday of  
Every Month at 10 am.

**December 4, 2013 -**  
Special guest on  
Bullying, Christine  
Feller, Internet Safety  
Specialist from the  
Office of the Illinois  
Attorney General

Each webinar has a round  
table discussion at the end.  
Questions are always  
welcome!

To participate, you must be a  
vetted member. For more  
information please email  
[schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us)

## Marijuana Smokers Using E-Cigarettes to Get High

ABC News Channel 20, November 5, 2013

When you see someone smoking an electronic cigarette, it might not be nicotine they're inhaling. Some are now using e-cigarettes as a new way to get high. They're smoking a vapor of liquid cannabis. It's sometimes referred to as hash oil. By using e-cigarettes, the illegal drug can be smoked anywhere without being detected. That has the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office concerned.

"You have no idea what they're smoking in there," said Kathy Drea, Vice President of Advocacy for the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest.

It's a new trend among marijuana users: smoking illegal hash oil using electronic cigarettes.

"Hash is a derivative of marijuana, and it's a process where they make it sometimes into a paste, obviously they make it into an oil. But they're putting it into these e-cigarettes and they're using it to get high. And hash causes a very intense high," said Sangamon County Undersheriff Jack Campbell.

Since the vapor from electronic cigarettes is odorless, the smell of the marijuana is non-existent.

Article continues at: [http://www.wics.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid\\_14058.shtml](http://www.wics.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_14058.shtml)



## NIMS (continued)

For more information regarding NIMS compliance for schools and campuses, the following resources are available:

(FEMA guide) NIMS implementation Activities for Schools and Higher Education Institutions: <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/emischool/EL361Toolkit/assets/NIMSImplementationActivitiesforSchools.pdf>

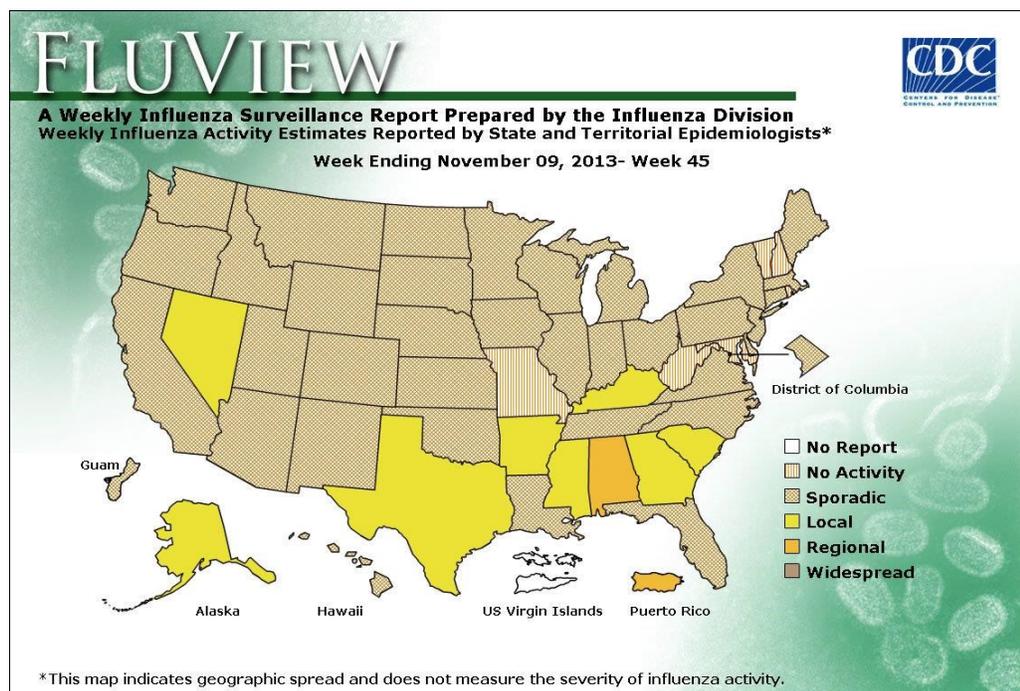
U.S. Department of Education released a newsletter by the Emergency Response and Crisis Management (ERC/M) Technical Assistance Center called, "The National Incident Management System (NIMS)" <http://rems.ed.gov/docs/NIMS.pdf>

Unfortunately, NIMS compliance is only one piece to of the puzzle to becoming prepared for a major incident or a life threatening emergency. Just as NIMS describes itself as something that can and should be built upon ever year, all school and campus emergency plans should be reviewed and improved every year.

The Illinois State Board of Education, ITTF, and Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System offers FREE School and Campus Security Training Programs, including NIMS training. For information on how to request and receive free NIMS training in your area, please contact Dr. Sandra Ellis at [Sandra.Ellis@illinois.gov](mailto:Sandra.Ellis@illinois.gov) or access the latest training schedule and course descriptors at: [http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training_schedule.pdf) and [http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training\\_courses.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/safety/pdf/training_courses.pdf). Additional and advanced NIMS training opportunities can be found at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu>.

## Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) FluView Week Ending November 9th

According to the CDC, Illinois is currently depicted as having sporadic flu activity which means small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of influenza like illnesses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>, accessed on 11/19/2013.



## Washington tornado: 'They are alive today because of that boy'

By Bonnie Miller Rubin. Chicago Tribune. November 18, 2013

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-washington-tornado-they-are-alive-today-because-of-that-boy-20131118.0.4933168.story>

Brevin Hunter, 6, was playing on his Xbox when he heard the wail of the siren. "Please, Mom. Let's go down in the basement."

Lisa Hunter heard it, too. But, the skies looked deceptively calm, so she thought it was just a drill. Or perhaps the action of a few overly-cautious officials jumping the gun.

Brevin wouldn't let up. "Please, Mom. This is what they teach us in school. When you hear the siren, you need to go somewhere safe."

On Sunday evening, Lisa Hunter credited her young son for saving their lives. She, Brevin and her oldest son, Brody, 11, grabbed a futon and went to the basement, just minutes before the tornado slammed into their duplex in Washington Estates.

"There's no way I would have gone if he hadn't kept nagging me," she said, from Crossroads Methodist Church, where dazed and disoriented Washington residents gathered and waited, hoping to be let back into whatever was left of their homes.

Lucinda Gresham, a nurse volunteering at the church, also attributed the family's safety to young Brevin. "They are alive today because of that boy."

But Brody was oblivious to the concerns of adults. He was basking in the media glare, being interviewed in his camouflage pajamas, which he selected from a box of donated clothes at the church.

"It was not so hard," he said, about his heroics. He demonstrated how he curled into a ball and protected his head while turbulent weather picked up tables and lawnmowers and tossed them about like toys.

His only regret? That they had to take cover so quickly that he had to leave his video game, Minecraft, without saving. "Now I have to start over."

### Why School Drills Matter... Outside of School...

"Please, Mom. This is what they teach us in school. When you hear the siren, you need to go somewhere safe."

- Brevin Hunter, 6



### Questions from School Safety Information Sharing Members

Schools and Campuses School Safety Information Sharing Members are welcome to ask questions. The following are a few that were brought to the program's attention you might be interested in.

Q: Is there any more information about the grant detailed in the September School Safety Information Newsletter?

A: Information pertaining to this grant will be emailed to our members as it is made available.

Q: Who do we contact for more information about the Ready to Respond Campus and Ready to Respond Schools programs?

A: Joan Carnduff is the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and Center for Public Safety and Justice School/Campus Safety Coordinator. Joan can be contacted at [Joan.Carnduff@illinois.gov](mailto:Joan.Carnduff@illinois.gov)

Q: Can we share this Newsletter with people who are not members of the School Safety Information Sharing Program?

A: Yes, this newsletter is open source and can be used as an example of the type of material the SSIS Program can offer.

Please feel free to send your comments, questions, concerns, ideas or feedback to Mia at [schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us). Your voice matters.



Mia Langheim  
School Intelligence Officer

#### School Safety Newsletter

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