

Why is it necessary to have critical incident plans?

We live in an ever-changing world. One only need watch the news to see terrible incidents of violence and tragedy striking school after school seemingly on a regular basis. In addition, intelligence on terrorism now reveals that one of the possible terrorism target scenarios would be creating a critical incident at a school or schools. It is the intent of the School District of Newberry County and the Newberry County Sheriff's Office to prepare, plan, and train to respond to these types of incidents while always hoping that such an incident never occurs. To ignore the reality of such situations is to multiply the potential dangers associated with such incidents. In doing so, we would be ignoring reality and endangering every child we are charged to protect. We are pleased to serve your children and believe that protecting them is our privilege, duty, and responsibility.

What action should I take during serious or threatening weather?

Because of the substantial nature of construction required under the International Building Codes, your child's school is likely one of the safest places they could be during serious weather conditions. Please do not come to school and attempt to remove your child during dangerous or imminently dangerous weather conditions. The safest place for your child is at the school, while perhaps the most dangerous would be in a vehicle traveling on the roadway. School District officials are not allowed to release any child when such serious and dangerous weather is occurring or about to occur.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

School District:

Jim Suber, Assistant Superintendent for Operations at
(803) 321-2600 or
jsuber@newberry.k12.sc.us

Law Enforcement:

Todd Johnson, Chief Deputy at
(803) 321-2211 or
tjohnson@ncso.sc.gov



The School District of Newberry County

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Mr. Bennie Bennett, Superintendent



Newberry County Sheriff's Office

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(803) 321-2211

www.newberrycountysheriff.com

James Lee Foster, Sheriff



Bennie Bennett, Superintendent

The School District of Newberry County and The Newberry County Sheriff's Office

Parent Information Brochure For Critical Incidents At Our Schools



James Lee Foster, Sheriff

What is being done to protect my child or children in the event of a critical or serious incident or disaster at school?

The Newberry County Sheriff's Office and the School District of Newberry County have worked to form one of the most progressive partnerships in school safety in the nation.

Through a cooperative partnership, the District has placed a School Resource Officer in every high and middle school throughout the County. These officers are on the front lines every day working with the school district teachers and staff to make our schools safe and building healthy, long lasting relationships with our children.

In addition, every year the Newberry County Sheriff's Office conducts mock crisis scenarios such as an active shooter at the school. The officers from the Sheriff's Office along with officers from every law enforcement agency in the county as well as EMS, Rescue Squads, and Fire Departments throughout the county have practiced the roles they will take if there should be a crisis situation at a school. These mock drills have helped prepare first responders, teachers, and administrative staff across the district to prepare for a critical incident.

This extensive planning, preparation, and training brought national recognition for our advanced, proactive approach to crisis planning and training to protect the children of Newberry County and to provide a safe learning environment where fear of harm does not prevent our children from excelling in the classroom.

Even the students will be involved with our ongoing training efforts. As with any action, the only way to insure the ability to carry out a successful plan is to practice that plan. Several times during the school year your child may inform you that there was a lock down at the school that day. Every school in the district will practice going into a lock down to prepare for a critical incident. These practice drills, much like fire drills and the many other drills practiced at school, will make the reaction to the call for a lock down second nature to the students and will enable all of us to react quickly and properly to any situation.

What should I do in the event of a critical incident at my child's school?

It will take a cooperative effort between many agencies to successfully respond to and appropriately handle a critical incident at any school. Our success will be largely dependent on your cooperation. The following steps will help us to better serve and protect your children.

- **REMAIN CALM.** There is no question that should there be a critical incident such as an explosion, hazardous materials exposure, active shooter, or other such event at one of our schools emotions will be running high. While we realize that it will be difficult to control those emotions, it will be extremely important to do so and to follow the enclosed guidelines.
- **DO NOT COME TO THE SCHOOL.** There will be a tremendous amount of activity at the school. Officers, teachers, and staff will be diligently working to keep the school secure and quickly evacuate the children. **NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE SCHOOL DURING A CRITICAL INCIDENT SO COMING TO THE SCHOOL WILL ONLY HAMPER EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN.** In addition, check points will be established around the school to prevent people from entering the school. By coming to the school, not only could you hamper efforts, but depending on the situation you could become an additional victim creating more difficulty for first responders. It is absolutely imperative that parents, friends, and loved ones stay away from the school so that school personnel and first responders can work swiftly to render aid and assistance to the children.
- **DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OR 911.** There are a limited number of telephone lines at each school and for 911 services in Newberry County. Those telephone lines must be available for emergency communications. No information will be provided over the telephone to anyone, so calling will only hamper efforts to provide services to our children. Information will be sent by the School District using the Parent Alert system so please make sure you keep your telephone numbers updated at your school. In addition, the Sheriff's Office will send updates through the Nixle program. If you have not registered to receive alerts through Nixle, you can do so at the Sheriff's Office website: www.newberrycountysheriff.com

- **DO NOT CALL OR TEXT YOUR CHILD'S CELL PHONE.** In today's world, schools and emergency workers depend heavily on cell phones for communication. An excessive volume of cell phone calls or text messages will actually clog communication lines and prevent emergency calls from going through. Perhaps worse, if your child is in hiding from a person who is a threat to them, your phone call may reveal your child's location and expose them to further danger.
- **DO NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE SCHOOL, STUDENTS, OR THE INCIDENT WITH THE MEDIA OR OTHERS.** More than likely, you will be asked to discuss the situation with the media or others. Please refrain from doing this. Rumors only serve to fuel fear and anxiety, and if there are suspects involved, you may be giving critical information about the operation to the suspects via the news media.
- **REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE PARENT INFORMATION CENTER.** Every School in the District has a pre-designated parent information center. Parents at this center will receive regular updates on the events at the school and on any injury reports. Additionally, students will first go to a safe evacuation center and once everyone is accounted for they will be brought on buses to the Parent Information Center for release to their parents. We have created an information network that will ensure a good flow of information to the parents if you will report to this center. It is important that you bring proper identification to the center to pick up your child.

Where is the Parent Information Center for my child's school?

The parent information center for **Newberry area schools including Gallman, Reuben, and Pomaria-Garmany** is **Central United Methodist Church located at 1005 College Street, Newberry.**

The parent information center for **Mid Carolina area schools including Prosperity-Rikard and Little Mountain Elementary** is **Wightman United Methodist Church located at 302 N. Main Street, Prosperity.**

The Parent Information Center for **Whitmire Community School** is **Whitmire First Baptist Church located at 173 Glenn Street, Whitmire.**