Our Goal is to engage the whole community to work together and help schools plan for all-hazards and provide a safe environment for our children.

Tom Corbett, Governor
Glenn Cannon, Director

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The Pennsylvania “All Hazards” School Safety Planning Toolkit is designed to help school districts/schools in their efforts to plan for all types of disasters, natural and human-caused.

Everyone from the state level of government to the school districts/schools and the community at large has a moral and legal obligation to ensure the safety of our children in the event of a disaster.

The toolkit is a “living” document. New procedures for prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery become available on a regular basis.

The Emergency Management Services Code, 35 Pa. C.S. §§7101 et seq., as amended, states, "Every school district and custodial child care facility, in cooperation with the local Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, shall develop and implement a comprehensive disaster response and emergency preparedness plan consistent with the guidelines developed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and other pertinent State requirements.”

The All-Hazards School Safety Planning Toolkit was developed by a committee comprised of schools, The PA Department of Education, other commonwealth agencies, law enforcement, emergency management agencies, and the Center for Safe Schools. The original toolkit was released in 2009 and updated in 2013. The toolkit was written as a comprehensive guide to help schools in developing an all-hazards approach to schools safety following the four phases of emergency management: Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery and addresses all-hazards, whether natural, technological, or human made. An all-hazard plan can be used for development of training; exercise development; collaboration with responders; and as a reference during an emergency.

The toolkit is not a template. Each school emergency plan must be customized for your locality, your hazards and vulnerabilities, and for your capabilities. The procedures used in a template may work in one area and fail in another. Because Pennsylvania schools are diverse, they each have unique planning needs and varied capabilities and resources to plan for and deal with incidents at their respective schools.

The toolkit contains documents that can be customized to fit your needs. It also contains reference materials, and checklists to assist in drafting your plan. PEMA is available to assist with writing or reviewing your plan upon request.

The All-Hazards Safe Schools Planning Toolkit can be found on the PEMA website at www.pema.state.pa.us.

The toolkit is available in Microsoft Word© format to provide you with the opportunity to customize the documents to fit your schools needs.

For Further Information, Contact:
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