



School Readiness Program

School Physical Security Assessment Program

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is offering a free voluntary physical security assessment of kindergarten through grade 12 schools in NH. This program looks at the physical building and grounds and makes observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities:

- Surveillance
- Access Control
- Emergency Alerting

Physical Security Capabilities

These three physical security capabilities can be effectively used to increase physical security at schools and serve as a starting point for security measures. All three capabilities are most effective when they are employed together as they form the three-pronged response to a school's security profile.



A. Surveillance: Surveillance is a physical security capability that all schools should have. The ability to view surroundings both internally and externally is a key element in early warning and defensive posturing. Surveillance cameras that are visible to the public mitigate the concept of anonymity and increase transparency in and around the school facility. Key leadership and certain administrative personnel should engage in and have routine access and exposure to surveillance monitoring as needed for security purposes. Surveillance monitoring should be located in areas of the school that have the ability to restrict access but not so restrictive that monitoring becomes difficult to access by authorized personnel during emergencies.

B. Access Control: Actively engaging/controlling the flow of people into the school facility is another physical security capability that all schools should have. Access control protects against unauthorized persons gaining access to facilities. Access Control involves some level of interaction with school staff that will make determinations about entry/denial. Access control should be layered throughout the building as it will act as an obstacle towards threat progression.

C. Emergency Alerting: The ability to communicate within the school using redundant systems is the third physical security capability. Leadership should be able to communicate directions from many locations within the school. Subordinate locations within the building must be able to communicate with leadership as well. The school must have redundant capabilities to make emergency calls for help to off-site emergency organizations and inform the public with official information.

Recommended Online Training:

The School Readiness Program encourages school officials to take a variety of different emergency management related courses. Additional resources are available online to learn about the target audience of the courses provided below.

- **IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System** - The course introduces personnel to ICS principles and prepares them to interface with local and/or state emergency responders. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c&lang=en>
- **IS-200.C: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents** - This course enforces what is taught in ICS-100.C providing training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within ICS. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c&lang=en>
- **IS-700.B: National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction** - This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS). <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-700.b&lang=en>
- **IS-800.D: National Response Framework (NRF) An Introduction** - This course enforces what is taught in IS-700.D and provides information on the National Response Framework which provides guidance to the whole community. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-800.d&lang=en>
- **IS-362.A: Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools** - This course covers basic information about general school preparedness such as developing, implementing, and maintaining a school EOP. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-362.a&lang=en>

Training & Exercises



- **School safety workshops, trainings, or exercises** are available by completing the form online. https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=14139
- **Additional resources** regarding the school training and exercise program can be viewed online. https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=14294

School Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

RSA 189:64 was repealed and reenacted in June of 2022 with HB1125 making some changes to the previous legislation. It is important for those involved to understand some key points regarding school EOPs:

- Every public, chartered public, and nonpublic school shall have a site-specific EOP which addresses specific hazards.
- The plan shall conform to the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System.
- The plan shall be submitted to Homeland Security & Emergency Management by October 15 of each year using the online portal found on the NH School Safety Resource Center.
- The law also provides information about the necessary number of drills and addresses building schematic floor plans.
- The most current version of RSA 189:64 can be found online. <https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/rsa-18964-emergency-response-plans/>

- **EOP development and technical assistance** is available upon request by contacting your School Readiness Liaison or emailing schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov

Additional resources can also be found online. https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=2529



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For more information:

NH.gov/HSEM and SchoolSafety.gov



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