

Can you decipher school safety **FACT vs. FICTION?**

Those in charge of school safety need to know **what actually is a safety threat to students**, and what is needed **to facilitate a swift response and keep students safe**.

Here's a breakdown of how common incidents are actually impacting schools today.

Active Shooters

Fiction:

- Preparing for an active shooter is the most pressing safety need for schools.
- Safety measures against active shooters are standard in all schools.

Fact:

School shootings are actually not that common.

Since 1992, the percentage of youth homicides occurring at school has not changed, accounting for less than 3% of the total number of youth homicides.

key takeaway >

Invest in a school safety solution that can provide critical communication during active shooter threats and more frequent incidents.

Source: NCJRS

Medical Emergencies

Fiction:

A school nurse alone is enough coverage for a medical emergency.

Fact:

Medical incidents are the most common school emergency, so coordinating a unified plan with local emergency medical service (EMS) with 9-1-1, health departments and other players is crucial.

83% of school districts coordinated with local emergency medical service providers.

68% of surveyed school nurses managed a life-threatening emergency in the last year that required EMS.

41% of nurses collaborated with local hospitals.

66% partnered with the local health department.

Not every school has coordinated with local emergency and healthcare services to develop a comprehensive response plan.

key takeaway >

Ensure that schools, emergency responders, 9-1-1 and other important players can be notified with the push of a button, as well as be included in the same conversation during a medical emergency.

Source: American Academy of Peridiatrics

Natural Disasters

Fiction:

Natural disasters vary across the country, so schools do not need to have a standard emergency plan for severe weather or other cataclysms.

Fact:

Depending on their location, schools need to have a response plan for incidents like severe weather, earthquakes and other major natural disasters.

■ **Two-thirds of U.S. states** have not adopted basic emergency preparedness regulations for schools.

■ **These response plans can vary** from school to school since there is not always a required standard.

■ **95% of school districts** have an emergency plan for natural disasters, however, these plans vary greatly.

key takeaway >

Invest in a school safety solution that can provide critical communication during more frequent incidents and also be used during uncommon emergencies.

Source: FEMA

Fire

Fiction:

Because fatalities in school fires have been exceedingly rare since 1958, fires are less of a serious threat and dedicating a large amount of time and resources is unnecessary.

Fact:

Statistically, the risk of a fire is greater when school is in session.

■ **80% of school fires occurred between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.**, the hours that students are most likely to be in school.

key takeaway >

Improved preparation and technological capabilities helped to reduce the fatality rate of school fire emergencies, so proper planning and harnessing the power of the right safety solutions can help maintain student safety.

Source: NFPA

Want to ensure that your school safety plan is based on facts, not fiction?

Learn how a panic button solution improved communication and had a massive impact on three school districts. Download this whitepaper to learn more.

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