

From the desk of the SRO:

One of the benefits of being a School Resource Officer is that I have the ability to work with a variety of administrators, teachers, staff, and students throughout the Tippecanoe School Corporation on a number of different campuses, in a number of different buildings. In my day to day interactions I often have conversations, and make observations, about what is working well at any given location, and what isn't. There is no other area that I feel this is most important than the area of safety and emergency response. For the remainder of this school year I hope to periodically expand my area of influence by writing on a particular topic dealing with safety to distribute to all TSC employees. In doing so, I hope you take the time to read about the topic at hand, do some self-reflection to see how it might apply to you and your building, and encourage you to talk with your peers, co-workers and students to make sure everyone is "on the same page."

Knowledge is power. Currently all public schools are required to write, maintain, and update annually a school emergency operations plan. In addition to this, the Tippecanoe School Corporation has established a Critical Response Team (CRT) that is trained and equipped to respond to large scale emergency situations. CRT is made up of the TSC Building and Grounds Director, various school administrators, the TSC Transportation Director, and both School Resource Officers. CRT meets monthly to discuss safety issues and concerns which directly affect your building's response procedures, and was instrumental in developing the Emergency Response Protocol that is now posted in every building and many classrooms throughout the Corporation. In addition to the CRT, many, if not all of our schools have a "Safe Schools Committee" tasked with discussing, implementing and promoting safe school practices within your specific building. If you are not familiar with whom your building safety representatives are, speak with your principal to identify them and use them as a resource.

In spite of all that you have just read the first thing I tell everyone I speak with concerning safety is that safety starts with YOU. Taking action is one of the simplest things to do, but may be one of the hardest steps to take because of the belief it's someone else's job to address it, or you simply don't feel comfortable confronting a potential problem. I am here to tell you that you need to fight that mindset and do your part to ensure a safer environment for all. This concept can be summed up best with, "If you see something, say something" or "If you see something, do something." Inaction is not an option in the case of keeping our school communities safe!

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