

SCHOOL BUS HOSTAGE SITUATION

Consideration must be given to the possibility of a hostage situation occurring on a school bus. If such an incident occurs, the following procedures should be implemented.

BUS DRIVER: The bus driver must assume a position of heightened responsibility for the welfare of the students on the bus as well as his/her own safety. Sound judgment, good decision making, knowledge of school and police procedures in handling such incidents, and training are the items that will be of greatest assistance to you should you become a victim. Students must be made aware of the behavior that will be required of them so they will be safe and do not inflame an already volatile situation.

The bus driver should accomplish the following tasks **IF they can be done in a safe manner:**

- DISABLE the bus or throw the keys away from the bus. This will eliminate the need to move the bus and will be helpful to law enforcement who will respond to the scene as soon as the location has been established UNLESS there is a tracking system in place for buses in your county.
- EVACUATE as many students as possible from the bus and direct them to move to a position out of sight of the bus.
- CLEAR the area of as many students and others as is safely possible.
- NOTIFY the transportation radio dispatcher of as much information as possible regarding your situation and location. If allowed to maintain radio contact, do so. All radio transmissions must be disciplined.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: The dispatch office should call 911 and notify the Superintendent / Board of Education office and all procedures set out in the Crisis Prevention and Response Plan should be implemented.

HOSTAGE RESPONSIBILITY

The major responsibility of individuals who have become hostages is to remain calm and act in a manner that will preserve their life, as well as the lives of other hostages. If in fact the other hostages are students, school personnel have the additional duties of ensuring that these children are aware of the behavior that will be required of them so they will be safe and do not inflame an already volatile situation. Initially, you may be the person who is thrust into the role of negotiating with the hostage taker(s). Always remain calm and request that the situation end by the release of the hostages or the escape of the hostage takers from the area. At all times, remain neutral regarding the reasons given by the hostage taker(s) for taking this action. Your concern is safety and the release of the hostages. Further, responses of the hostage taker may be irrational or illogical, depending upon his/her mental condition and/or the stress of the situation.

SEE ALSO, WEAPON ON A BUS/ARMED SHOOTER EVENT AID IF THE HOSTAGE TAKER IS ARMED .

Incident Commander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatch a school representative to the scene, if possible • Notify BOE/Superintendent of the incident. • Ensure that parents and guardians are aware of the incident
Head Custodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the IC for instructions
School Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the IC for instructions • Provide external emergency responders with any medical information that will assist their assessment of injured riders
School Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow school protocol to support all students especially those with disabilities and emotionally vulnerable students. • Assist with contact of parents, as needed. • Activate Mental Health Response Team to support distressed students and families and to assist with the recovery process
School Resource Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the scene if within the incident is local to assist with the response
Evacuation Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the IC to receive initial instructions
Reunification Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to IC for further instructions

BUS HOSTAGE SITUATION - FLOW CHART

