



A well-developed emergency plan saves lives.

Special Interest Articles

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According to a recent ABC TV report, more than half of the teenagers in the U.S. now own cell phones; in some schools, this number is as high as 80 percent. 75 percent of 15-17 year olds surveyed owned cell phones, up from 42% in 2002.

Your Child's School and Emergency Planning

In the post-9/11 world our schools are viable targets and they are most vulnerable. The tragic attack on a Russian school last September reminded law enforcement authorities everywhere that even the schoolyard isn't safe from terrorism. Over 300 students and educators were killed when Russian forces stormed the gymnasium where Chechen rebels had taken the student body hostage. The killings provoked international outrage and served as a wake-up call to educators worldwide.

By now many of our nation's schools have a plan in place to anticipate emergency situations such as terrorist attacks, bomb threats, natural disasters and violent acts (the Columbine shootings and the recent Minnesota tragedy proved the need for such planning even before 9/11; the recent Minnesota tragedy merely reinforced it). The Department of Education's [website](#) details various contingency plans for everything from bomb threats to post-disaster psychological trauma.

Protecting America's kids while they are on campus is a key element to homeland security. Campuses are classified as "soft targets" for terrorism or violent attacks, lacking the fortified security of a nuclear facility, military installation or state capitol building. Yet the vast damage done to the nation's psyche by such an attack would be incalculable. The Departments of Education and Homeland Security have worked to close these vulnerabilities by working with education institutions nationwide.

Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia has been singled out by the Department of Education's website for its well-developed emergency planning [program](#). According to Fred Ellis, the Director of the Office for Safety and Security in the Department of Facilities



Schools nationwide are adopting comprehensive emergency plans.

and Transportation Services for the Fairfax County Public Schools, the district administrators realized the profound importance of a comprehensive contingency plan. "In our Emergency Management training, we tell administrators that they 'can't learn to dance the night of the ball,'" said Ellis via e-mail. "If they've never given any thought to how they would handle incidents, they will not do well in a real event. In a nutshell, 'you perform how you've trained.' If you haven't trained...don't expect much success. Not only is this a liability concern, but, more importantly, it is a moral and legal obligation. Our communities expect that our staff do all they reasonably can to ensure a safe and secure environment and be ready to respond in an emergency."

Ellis further notes that the development of the Fairfax County Public Schools emergency plan was/is an evolutionary process that took/takes the collaborative efforts of public safety and emergency planning experts. While anticipating the dangers that could beset the classroom is a complex process requiring considerable resources on both the school and district levels, and from the local emergency services, the consequences of not developing contingency plans are prohibitive.

**By Eric Fairbanks
Editor**

i-SAFE Rolls Out a Rap Contest

i-SAFE is pleased to announce the i-SAFE "America Idol" contest.

Open to students everywhere, the event will pit the rapping and rhyming skills of youth from across the nation against each other. The winners receive two weeks of free music downloading from Napster. That's right, unlimited music for two weeks. Check out the 411 [here](#).

Congratulations to Oregon DECA students Shannon, Brandon, and Jamie from Oregon City High School for winning the Most Valuable Mentor Award for the month of February. For their public relations project on Internet safety, they reached every K-8 student in their district, teaching younger students how to be safe online. They planned an Internet Safety Week, organized assemblies for 6,000 students, put together a parent presentation involving law enforcement, were featured in local papers and school newsletters, had messages on town billboards, and even inspired the mayor to declare the week "Internet Safety Week." If you are interested in starting an i-SAFE i-Mentor program and hosting a cyber safety week in your town, please contact us at mentors@isafe.org.

Pharming: Cultivating the New Online Scam

By now most people are wise to the phishing scheme. Indeed, if you have an e-mail account, chances are you've received a letter from a bank or eBay claiming to need your personal information to update their files. This old form of identity theft is child's play when compared to a new emerging threat—pharming.

Pharming is a new name for an old threat otherwise known as "domain spoofing" or "DNS cultivating." To understand the threat, one must understand a little how domains and routing work. Every webpage has two addresses. The specific one is an IP address, which tells machines how to route your request. This looks like a string of numbers such as "222.123.0.0." However, such address would be too complicated to remember. Instead, most people remember the familiar address or domain name—i.e., Google, Amazon, CNET, etc. When you type these familiar addresses into the address bar of your browser you are, in essence, using a giant phone book. Your request is sent to a domain name server (DNS), which "looks up" the IP address and directs your query to the correct spot.

Unfortunately that DNS server you are routing through is a weak link in the

Internet structure. In the past hackers have posed denial of service attacks, basically taking down these directing servers. But far scarier is the potential threat of altering the routing system. For example, you put in the common domain address of your local bank—say, Bank of America. Well, a hacker has altered the DNS server so that all requests for Bank of America are fraudulently forwarded to an alternate IP address. Therefore, you are directed to a webpage that may look for all intents and purposes like that of Bank of America, and your address bar may even say "Bank of America," however, the hidden IP address is really that of a hacker who is stealing your personal information.

So what can you do to protect yourself? Unfortunately, not much. Some sites are using security certificates to verify that they are who they say they are. You can set your browser to warn you if the security certificate does not match up with the name of the site you are trying to reach. But until every site uses security certificates and the kinks of the system are worked out, one is pretty much powerless to verify they are where they think they are when online.

By Kristi Lamon
i-SAFE Curriculum

i-SAFE Cyber Bullying Video Contest Has a Winner!

The votes have been tallied, the tribe has spoken, there's white smoke coming out of the chimney—i-SAFE has chosen the winning selections in the "Expose the Truth: Cyber Bullying" Video Contest. Taking top honors in the high school division is "Picture Phone" by Monica from Oran High School, Missouri. "Picture Phone" narrates a fictional account of cyber bullying made the more powerful by the absence of spoken dialogue. The video updates the age-old problem of schoolyard bullying with a tech twist. From Jones Middle School in Kentucky comes the top submission in the middle school division. "Online Bullying" uses interviews with cyber bullying victims to make its point and offers tips on how to avoid online antagonists. i-SAFE would like to thank all the entrants. If you want to see the top videos, they will be posted [here](#) in the coming weeks.

i-SAFE "Expose the Truth: Cyber Bullying" Video Contest Winners

High School: "Picture Phone" by Monica, Oran High School, MO

Middle School: "Online Bullying" by Samantha, Elizabeth, Whitney, Silvia, Summer, Trevor, Alex, Jones Middle School, KY

Official Selections

"Cyber Bullying: The 4 R's"

by Assumption High School, KY

"Dangers of the Internet—Investigative Reporting" by Micheal and Trevor, Woodlawn Middle School, IL

"Ex-Boyfriend" by Susie, Adriana, Keenan, Sam, Rhonda, Michael, Sam Rotolo Middle School, IL

"Cyber Bullying: i-SAFE News Report" by Omar, Lauren, Kelsey, and Emily, St. Rita School, KY

"Nightmare" by Tiffany, Oran High School, MO

"New Girl" by Brandy, Oran High School, MO

News Flash!**IM, the New Virus Delivery Vehicle**

Virus writers are now using instant messaging to distribute their obnoxious payload. It works like this: an instant message pops up on the unsuspecting victim's screen directing her/him to a website where a Trojan horse virus awaits. A click, and the computer is infected. The Kelvir worm invaded computers worldwide in early March using just such a method. Experts believe that this could just be the beginning of an IM worm onslaught this year. Remember to think before you link.

**We welcome your input!**

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter or tell us your story, please contact us at:

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i-SAFE AMERICA

Educator's Corner: Digging Deeper

New safety issues crop up everyday in the Cyberspace, and the educator has precious little time to scour the Internet for information on the latest threats. That's why i-SAFE has created "Dig Deeper," a series of articles (in an easily downloadable pdf format) that focus on a vital, timely topic important to educators and the teaching of Internet safety. These one-to-two page articles outline the issue in layman's terms and typically offer tips on how to deal with the new threat.

Periodically we will be adding new articles to *Dig Deeper*. The first two articles are valuable for both teachers and administrators alike. "Acceptable Use Policies" reveals the wisdom of developing a standard set of rules to govern Internet usage and is a must-read for any educator. "The Promise and Perils of Blogging" deals with the teen fascination for blogging (online journaling) and its pitfalls. To dig deeper into these and other topics pertinent to teaching youth about Internet safety, click [here](#).

i-SAFE Resources

Educators! If you are interested in bringing the i-SAFE Curriculum to your school, contact us at education@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Parents and Community Leaders! If you are interested in bringing the i-SAFE program to your community, contact us at outreach@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Students! If you are interested in becoming an i-SAFE Student Mentor, contact us at mentors@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Interested in attending an i-SAFE event? Click [here](#) for a full calendar of events coming to a location near you soon!

About Our Organization...

MISSION: i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience.

GOAL: The i-SAFE program provides students with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior and to respond appropriately.

i-SAFE is dedicated to: 1) implementing a standardized Internet safety education program throughout the nation that provides kids and teens with essential tools to reduce the risk of their being victimized while engaged in activities via the Internet; and 2) launching an Outreach Campaign that empowers students to take control of their online experiences and make educated, informed, and knowledgeable decisions as they actively engage in cyber activities.

A Special Thanks from The i-SAFE Times Staff

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