



Build S.A.F. E.

Security Awareness for Education

Kids with Guns...It's time to seek help.

December 11, 2008, Headline: "Kindergartners have guns at school: 2 suspended after 5-year old is caught with .22 packed by classmate" (Augusta, GA)

Fact: During the Clinton Administration over a 2 year span 6,000 students were caught with guns... 13 were prosecuted.

December 16, 2008, headline: "2 teens caught with guns at their high schools" (Hillsborough, CA)

Fact : The 5 school shootings which occurred during the '97-98 school year took place after the 1995 Gun-Free School Zones law was enacted, banning guns (including lawfully possessed concealed handguns) within 1000 feet of a school.(2)

Read Enough? School Administrators have a tough enough time determining the "real" security needs without wasting already scarce resources so why not look to a team of experts that specialize in assessing your security needs. At ConTech Design Group we believe in real life solutions to real life problems. Gun control or a lack thereof is just one of the many issues that haunt the minds of administrators, teachers, and parents alike. So why leave it to chance? Not only is it mandated by the Department of Justice, Homeland Security, and Education that schools routinely conduct a security assessment but experts recommend that this be accomplished by an independent consultant.

One author of the ERIC Clearing House for Educational Management (Gustaud, 1999), points out that a security assessment completed by an "outsider" has several advantages including the credibility and objectivity a specialist brings along with expertise and professional validation to existing security measures. Along with solid recommendation for improvements, seeking outside help reflects directly on the district's openness and dedication to safety and could possibly reduce liability.

Expert help will ensure that advanced security systems are used in combination with the Human factor and not left for after- the- fact footage as did the surveillance system during the Columbine High School mass shooting where the systems were not monitored but used as back tracking system.

1st Quarter



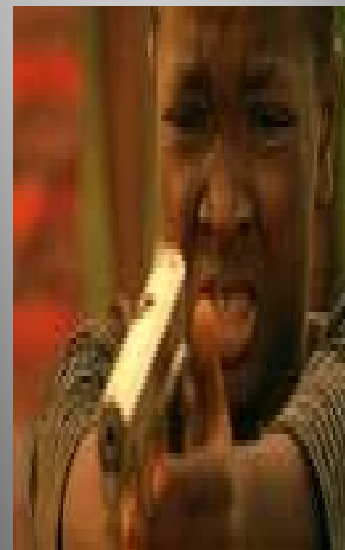
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Kids with Guns...Its time to seek help (continued)

ConTech finds solutions that take into account every aspect of schools safety and security through threat and vulnerability assessments, grant finding, crisis planning, and development of a master plan that looks past what's happening right now. Anyone can tell you how to change the physical security of your school however we change minds through assessment, reporting, and security education.

Sources:

Guastad, J, (1999) ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management, College of Education, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-5207.

Lott J; "More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun-Control Laws";

University of Chicago; 1998

Kopel D; "Children & Guns: Sensible Solutions"; Independence Inst. 1993

U.S. Department of Justice statistics

"Seeking outside help reflects directly on the District's openness and dedication to safety and could possibly reduce liability."

Spotlight: School Modernization: Obama's Economic Plan

School renovations, additions, and new construction have been named as large part our now President Elect, Barack Obama's plan to stimulate the economy. ConTech recognizes the importance of helping you to get it right the first time by offering construction consulting services. We will be there from the thought of ground breaking to the time the first student enters the building!



Quarterly Initiatives

Bowlarama: Team Building

You haven't bonded with a co-worker until you have seen them perform their own version of the now forbidden NFL touchdown dance in a crowded bowling alley after receiving a strike for the first time! Yes, you heard it here first, this quarter ConTech is drumming up some friendly in house competition at the bowling lanes, so don't be surprised if you get asked to join the fun. At ConTech, we believe that the closer we are to each other, the better we will work as a team to serve you!

Prayer Breakfast: State of the Economy, Affecting our Education?

Americans spent \$754 billion dollars on education last year and \$454 billion dollars alone was spent on K-12 education. This price tag is menial compared to the some expenses of today's Economy and education happens to be a debt we can't forgo. ConTech wants to take a little time this year to invite you to hear what we can do during this economy with, keynote speakers, live entertainment, pancakes and waffles, and little insight to what ConTech Design group is all about.





CPTED: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

ConTech is hosting Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design at our corporate office in Norcross, GA, April 1-3, 2009. CPTED strategies are ideal for Law Enforcement Officers, City Planners, City Managers, City Council Members, Architects, Security Consultants, Educators or anyone involved in designing neighborhoods, schools, downtowns, buildings, or revitalization efforts.

The Four Strategies of CPTED

- 1. Natural Surveillance** - A design concept directed primarily at keeping intruders easily observable. Promoted by features that maximize visibility of people, parking areas and building entrances: doors and windows that look out on to streets and parking areas; pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets; front porches; adequate nighttime lighting.
- 2. Territorial Reinforcement** - Physical design can create or extend a sphere of influence. Users then develop a sense of territorial control while potential offenders, perceiving this control, are discouraged. Promoted by features that define property lines and distinguish private spaces from public spaces using landscape plantings, pavement designs, gateway treatments, and "CPTED" fences.
- 3. Natural Access Control** - A design concept directed primarily at decreasing crime opportunity by denying access to crime targets and creating in offenders a perception of risk. Gained by designing streets, sidewalks, building entrances and neighborhood gateways to clearly indicate public routes and discouraging access to private areas with structural elements.
- 4. Target Hardening** - Accomplished by features that prohibit entry or access: window locks dead bolts for doors, interior door hinges.

To register to attend training please visit our Website @ <http://www.contechdesigngroup.com/EVENTS.html>

Events

ConTech Online

Did you know that you are a few clicks away from being a part of events hosted by ConTech Design Group? Visit our website @ www.contechdg.com and click on the events button to see sponsored events at ConTech, Training, Tradeshows, and where ConTech is exhibiting in 2009.

Happy New Year!

ConTech is looking ahead to find more innovative security solutions, build stronger client relationships and most importantly deliver a quality product with integrity and long lasting value. Partner with ConTech in 2009 and share in its continued growth!



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*"Through Strategy and Persistence
any obstacle can be overcome"*

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Putting it all on the Table: School Tabletop Emergency/Crisis Exercises by Rachelle Walton

At ConTech Design Group, not only do we strive to provide optimum school security assessments, but we also take note from other organizations that make continuous efforts to achieve the safest schools for our children. The National School Safety and Security Services is a top expert resource in school crisis plans and school emergency planning training and they recommend simple, more cost effective way to crisis planning...Tabletop Exercises. These particular exercises are set in a stress-free environment and provide a simulation of emergency situations that could occur in schools. They are intended to provide a more time efficient way of evolving a school's emergency/crisis planning above and beyond. Tabletop Exercises typically occur during school professional days to avoid letting emergency/crisis plans go ignored and unpracticed. They are designed so that each school district and its' individual schools develop their own plans to avoid simply using a cookie cutter design used by other schools. In truth, not having an individualized plan can lead to increased liability for school officials. Tabletop Exercises have revealed many interesting facts that can be described as "lessons learned". For example, many school crisis teams go into lockdown mode faster than what may actually be necessary based on the current threat at hand. Another example of a "lesson learned" is the fact that school crisis plans lack adequate backup levels of leadership and well thought out planning. Tabletop Exercises defines a school that is prepared for crisis and emergency situation as a school that has trained its staff on school security and emergency planning matters; a school that assess and refines its school security plans; and utilizes school crisis plans. ConTech's master planning includes emergency preparedness and will assist you to facilitate a Tabletop Exercise. Sometimes, making school facilities safer for our future generation only takes putting it all on the table...literally!

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