

Safety and Crisis Management Planning

Duties of the PCL

What is a crisis?

- Incidents range in scope and intensity
- Can effect from one student to entire community
- Can happen before, during or after programs and on or off parish property

Definition of a Crisis

- “An unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending, especially one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome.”

(Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary, 1987)

In essence a crisis is...

- A situation where a catechetical program/parish may be faced with inadequate information,
- Not enough time
- Insufficient resources
- But in which leaders must make one or many crucial decisions



A Crisis Plan needs to address...

- **Natural disasters**

- Earthquake, tornado, hurricane, flood
- Severe weather

- **Fires**

- **Chemical or hazardous material spills**

- **Bus crashes**

- **Hostage situations**

- **School shootings**

- **Bomb threats**

- **Medical emergencies**

- **Student or staff deaths**

- Suicide, homicide, unintentional or natural

- **Outbreaks of disease or infection**

The Sequence of Crisis Management



- Mitigation/Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Mitigation and Prevention

- While we may have no control over some hazards we can minimize or mitigate impact
- Take action to reduce likelihood of some events
- Important from legal standpoint—avoid negligence claim



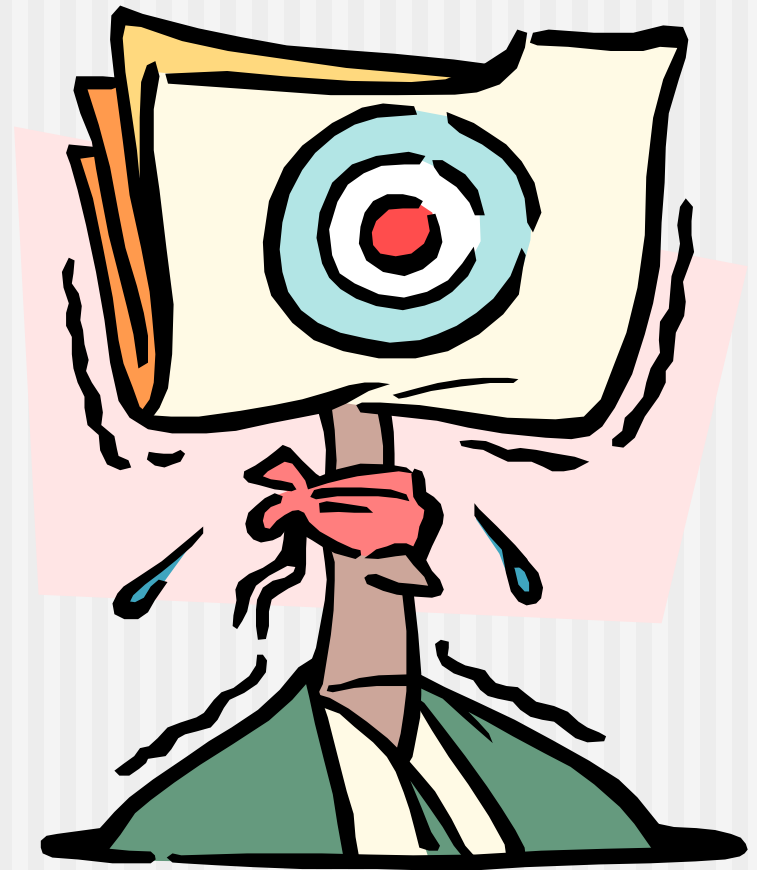
Action steps



- Know building(s)
 - Safety audit
- Don't re-invent wheel—what's already done?
- Know community
 - Threats
 - resources

Preparedness

- Crisis Plan
 - “Knowing how to respond quickly and efficiently in a crisis is critical to ensuring the safety of those in our care. The midst of a crisis is no time to start figuring out who ought to do what. At that moment, everyone involved—from top to bottom—should know the drill and know each other.”

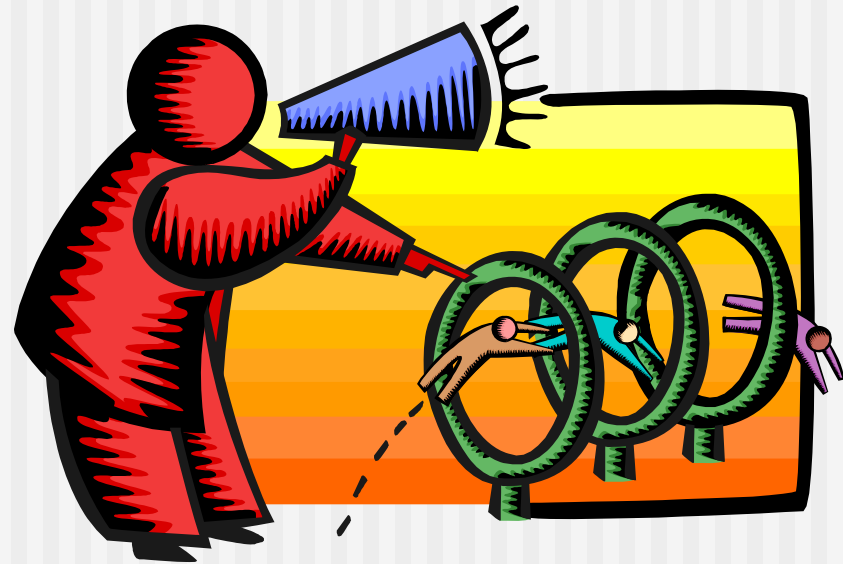


Action Plan

- Consider existing efforts
- Define roles and responsibilities
- Develop methods of communication with staff, students, families and the media.
- Obtain necessary equipment and supplies
 - Lists of staff and students—phone numbers, phone access, equipment storage and alternate
- Determine response procedures—evacuation, lockdown, reverse evacuation, relocation
- Maps and facilities information
- Meet with and consult with police fire, ambulance services

Response

- Follow the plan
- Expect surprises
- Assess the situation & choose appropriate response *within seconds*
- Notify appropriate emergency responders and catechetical program crisis team
- Evacuate or lock down as appropriate
- Triage injuries
- Keep supplies organized



Recovery



- Return to learning and restore infrastructure as quickly as possible
- Emotional impact & needs—a caring and supportive environment
- Evaluate