GUIDE TO OHIO SCHOOL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

'A harder target'

Threat assessments focus on people, but this vulnerability assessment will focus on the physical school building. The Ohio Department of Public Safety provides a 28-section form, titled "Security and Vulnerability Assessment," which should be used to evaluate the school's preparedness. This training explores some of the key sections.

Reference text

FACILITY INFORMATION

- Schools are considered soft targets, in that they are lightly guarded.
- Schools are locations where large numbers of people congregate.

CONTRIBUTORS TO VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- School principal
- Maintenance supervisor
- Local emergency management official
- Those familiar with the school and grounds

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

2nd section of the form:

"Facility Threats and Hazards"

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

15th section of the form:

"Badge/ID Card Policy"

FEATURES OF A BADGE/ID CARD

- Branding: school's logo and colors
- Color headshot photo
- Individualized serial numbers
- Security measure: holographic image or seal
- Magnetic strip or chip for functionality

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

17th section of the form:

"Visitor Procedures"

> "Schools are chosen as targets because they are symbols of the community. They are the location of our most important commodity — the students."
>
> — **Micah Stoll,** Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

Speakers

MICAH STOLL, Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

"Ohio schools have the ability to receive funding for safety, security, supplies and equipment. However, without a thorough vulnerability assessment, how will your school know where to spend the money?"

DR. JOHN MARSCHHAUSEN, Superintendent, Hilliard City Schools

"You develop that relationship and that trust and that cooperation, so now, if an officer is needed in a building, they're able to roll up and get into any of our doors."

MAX SCHACHTER, Founder, Safe Schools For Alex

"The kids and the teachers on the second floor were able to, No. 1, they shut off the lights. And some of the teachers moved the kids into a safer area of the classroom that was out of the line of sight of the window. And they covered the windows with construction paper."

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19th section of the form:

"Dependencies and Dependency Protection"

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

20th section of the form:

"Building Envelope"

FILM FOR WINDOWS AND DOORS

- Nondisruptive measure
- Fortifies school without changing appearance
- Differing ballistic capabilities
- Can delay entry by attacker
- Protects against adverse weather, provides blast mitigation, limits visibility from outside

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

21st section of the form:

"Parking/Vehicles"

PERIMETER SECURITY

- Fences, gates and barriers
- Mitigate threat while maintaining learning environment
- Control traffic
- Must be functional during emergencies

LANDSCAPING FOR SECURITY

- Aesthetically pleasing way to enhance security
- Define or designate spaces
- Deny access to unauthorized people or vehicles
- Avoid providing concealment

CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM

- Improved technology has reduced cost
- Record and store data
- Is a deterrent tool if monitored
- Able to be viewed by first responders

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Ohio Department of Public Safety

If you have questions, call:

614-387-3362

NOTES