



FEMA

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## LESSON LEARNED

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### School Emergency Management Planning: Alternating Evacuation Site Locations

#### SUMMARY

School officials should consider alternating the use of pre-identified evacuation sites in order to maximize security during an incident. Officials should include these locations in school emergency plans.

#### DESCRIPTION

On February 27, 2009, school officials at Nelsonville York High School in Nelsonville, Ohio, evacuated students because of a bomb threat. The Athens County 9-1-1 dispatch center received a call at 9:49 a.m. reporting a bomb threat at the school and alerted the Nelsonville police and fire departments. Emergency responders arrived at the school within 9 minutes of the initial call.

School officials had already evacuated approximately 700 students and staff members to the football stadium on campus when responders arrived. Public safety officials established a security perimeter around the school and began to investigate the threat. Information from school officials revealed that the threat had a 12:00 p.m. deadline.

The Nelsonville York School District serves northern Athens County, Ohio, representing the communities of Nelsonville, Buchtel, Carbon Hill, Murray City, and Ward Township of Hocking County.

School and public safety officials decided to move the students and staff members to a pre-designated emergency evacuation site due to inclement weather. The Nelsonville York High School emergency evacuation plan designates two sites for receiving students in a crisis situation: a local movie theater and a recreation center. School officials recommended and the incident commander approved moving the students and staff members to the movie theater. The incident commander requested that the Athens County Sheriff's Office respond to the shelter location to provide security. The after-action report noted that school emergency planners should consider alternating sheltering sites to provide additional security during incidents that require an evacuation of the school.

School officials should alternate the use of pre-identified evacuation sites in order to maximize security during an incident. Officials should include these locations in school emergency plans.

#### CITATION

City of Nelsonville, Ohio. *February 27, 2009 Bomb Threat After Action Report*. 04 Mar 2009.

<http://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=35283>

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