Safety and Crisis Management Planning

Duties of the PCL
What is a crisis?

- Incidents range in scope and intensity
- Can affect 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