Best Practices
Schools and Campuses

June 2017
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Schools and Campuses

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Our world is full of threats both external and internal. There are steps that you can take — some that you may not have considered — to mitigate the threat before it arrives at your front door.

Prevention is the key.
We give little thought to threats until the unthinkable is broadcast on national news, and then we scramble to ensure our faculty and students are not exposed to such a threat. Enhance life safety and security measures on your campus with the addition of cutting-edge technology that works in conjunction with your existing systems, such as:

1. Perimeter fencing emergency exit and access control
2. Door prop alarms
3. Lockdown systems

1) Perimeter emergency exit and access control
Playgrounds with emergency exit gates that open near a busy street can be cause for concern. Where life safety codes restrict traditional locking of these gates, weatherized delayed egress may be an acceptable application, depending on the authority having jurisdiction. Weatherized delayed egress systems:

- Include panic hardware that emits a loud local alarm, encouraging a student to move away from the area while alerting staff that someone is attempting to exit.
- Provide time for staff to react before the gate unlocks and help to avoid a dangerous situation.
- Feature access control that prohibits unauthorized entry.

2) Door prop alarms
Supplementing existing door security with door prop alarms helps to maintain a more secure environment. A door left propped open, even for a few seconds, can provide an easy access point for threats. Door prop alarms will:

- Alert personnel to an unsecure door via audible alarm.
- Send an alert to any central security monitor.
- Help prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the premises.

3) Lockdown Systems
What is the safest, fastest, easiest and most cost-effective means of locking down your campus? One way that has been overlooked is the use of panic exit devices with electric dogging. When installed throughout a school facility, electric dogging allows all locking devices to be “energized” by one control switch that can be located in a centralized area.

When electric dogging is applied to entry doors, it removes the need for a staff member - perhaps in a crisis - to remember where the key is and how to lockdown the doors. The administrator makes the decision to lockdown and takes the responsibility off the shoulders of the staff. Electric dogging can:

- Allow doors to be dogged for push/pull operation during specific hours.
- Automatically revert to secure mode at a pre-selected time, locking the doors to entry but still allowing exit.

Put all the right pieces in one place for complete peace of mind.
Ensuring all the pieces of technology will work together is key. Be careful of specification writers who supply only a list of products without information on how the items are integrated together. Failing to install the items correctly can create years of headaches and wasted money. Make sure they can support the installation with wiring diagrams, riser illustrations and technical support.

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Multi-Use Blue Light Towers Increase Versatile Security at Seattle Central College

Universities across the nation are making safety for their students a top priority. From installing cameras to incorporating access control and implementing blue light call stations, campus security and public safety leaders are consistently looking for ways to ensure the safety of their community.

Located in the heart of Seattle, adjacent to Capitol Hill, Seattle Central College plays host to over 16,300 students and 950 staff members. The campus experiences a high volume of foot traffic due to both their student population and the public areas, such as Capitol Hill and a city park, that surround the school grounds.

Seattle Central was looking to add an additional layer to their public safety initiative - specifically blue light call stations across the campus. They turned to Elman McClain, Director of Public Safety, for a plan. Multiple factors went into his product search. As a highly humid environment, emergency call stations and blue light stations located in the Seattle area must prevent moisture from finding a way into the unit. When water finds its way into an emergency call station system, it can affect the integrity of its operation. Director McClain was also looking for an option that allowed him to use the blue light stations as more than housings for call stations. His goal was to incorporate the benefits of mass notification broadcasting and surveillance.

After developing a request for proposal and completing product research, Director McClain chose the Talkaphone WEBS® MT/R Series Tower and Wall Mounts for his campus’s blue light stations. Equipped with four outdoor broadcasting speakers, local mustering capabilities and optional dual camera arm, the decision to install the Talkaphone towers was “a no brainer”, according to Director McClain.

Working with integrator ABSCO Solutions as well as the Talkaphone team, the college’s installation process was both smooth and timely. “Our integrators knew what they were doing from the day we started and Talkaphone’s willingness to assist really made life easy for me,” says the director.

As a member of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement (IACLEA), Director McClain has a strong background and understanding of the Clery Act as well as a passion for what it represents. “We have legislation out there that says we need to have these resources to help keep our campuses safe,” he points out. Passed in 1990, the Clery Act requires colleges and universities to outline specific policies and procedures related to disseminating timely warnings and emergency notifications. Seattle Central decided to utilize the blue light call stations as a major part of communicating emergency information to their community. Regular testing of the blue light and broadcasting system is a part of Seattle Central’s security process. After the first test of the WEBS® MT/R Tower outdoor broadcasting system, the director is extremely satisfied with his choice. “The speakers are extremely clear, very noticeable,” he says with a slight chuckle.

Looking towards the future for his campus, the director envisions integrating indoor emergency call stations as well as adding additional blue light stations to the outdoor areas of campus. His goal is to expand the uses of the towers and call boxes on campus. In regards to the existing towers on campus, Director McClain is very satisfied with his current installation. “These guys are battle tested,” he states. “They are the number one we can rely on.”

Learn more about Talkaphone:
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University of Rhode Island Installs PERSONA Campus™ Solution with Over 4,000 SARGENT Passport 1000 P2 Wi-Fi Locks

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, April 27, 2017 — As a critical element of its two-year campus-wide renovation, the University of Rhode Island recently upgraded over 4,000 door openings across its residence halls with SARGENT Passport 1000 P2 Wi-Fi Locks backed by PERSONA Campus™ access control software.

Prior to the renovation, the University relied on three different software platforms to monitor the exterior electrified access doors for the residence halls. Students were also using rocks and other objects to prop open the other non-access doors when exiting the buildings, raising serious security concerns and increasing maintenance needs at the openings.

Rather than continue to discipline offending students for violating fire code, the University decided the renovation was the perfect time to update security and provide student access at all the openings. “We recognized that the students wanted access to those areas of the buildings,” said Dr. Jeffrey Plouffe, Associate Director, Administrative Systems and Operations, University of Rhode Island. “We needed to find a solution that could allow us to offer access to those areas and ensure student safety. ASSA ABLOY was the perfect match.” The University wanted a lock and software that could be easily integrated with its residential operations management software, The Housing Director from Adirondack Solutions. It also wanted a lock that is extremely low maintenance and that would work for both interior and exterior doors.

ASSA ABLOY teamed with the University to test 13 SARGENT Passport 1000 P2 Wi-Fi locks on the PERSONA Campus Software. After about a month of testing,
University made the decision to establish a relationship between the Department of Housing and ASSA ABLOY. "ASSA ABLOY has been with us every step of the way, from onsite technical support during the installation phase to having a representative on campus with us during every opening," said Charles Hall, Assistant Director, Housing and Residential Life, University of Rhode Island.

The University chose the Sargent Passport 1000 P2 WiFi lock, which combines HID® multiCLASS SE® technology with a magnetic stripe reader and keypad. The P2 uses the residence hall’s IEEE 802.11 Wi-Fi infrastructure to connect to the access control system, significantly reducing installation time and costs. In addition to the card readers installed on every exterior door, about 4,000 Wi-Fi locks with PIN and student ID card access were deployed across campus. The new system will help minimize the efforts of the card office, with the ability to manage access rights centrally.

"One of the most important criteria in our decision was the company itself that we would be partnering with," said Plouffe. "I believe that great companies make great products. ASSA ABLOY knows their market and they understand where it’s headed in the future. I would challenge anyone who may have thought it was the wrong choice to come see the operation. The ASSA ABLOY solutions are efficient, high-quality and deliver on their promises."

For more information about ASSA ABLOY, please visit: www.assaabloy.com/en/com/.

ABOUT SARGENT
Founded in the early 1800’s, SARGENT is a market leader in locksets, cylinders, door closers, exit devices, electro-mechanical products and access control systems for new construction, renovation and replacement applications. The company’s customer base includes commercial construction, institutional, and industrial markets. Included in SARGENT’s product offerings are windstorm certified locks and exit devices, hardwired and wireless access control devices, decorative levers and patented and high security key systems. Visit our website for bored lock, mortise lock, exit device and key system product specifications, http://www.sargentlock.com/
It is one thing to read an article in your local newspaper about a reported sexual assault, it is a whole different experience to watch a 13-year-old girl struggle every day in middle school because a school bus driver in your district sexually abused her when she was in the fifth grade.

The purpose of this brief narrative is to have a school administrator’s perspective and additional awareness about sexual abuse incidents in schools to provide recommended research-based and proven effective methods that, if embedded in daily operations at educational institutions, will reduce the number of sexual abuse incidents.

THE PROBLEM
A s a former middle school principal, we were fortunate that we never had a situation where a staff member was suspected of committing inappropriate sexual acts against a minor. That doesn’t mean, however, we didn’t see the negative fallout of sexual abuse on a daily basis. What it does to a student, their family, the school, and our community is so pervasive and devastating that it can’t be described as anything other than tragic. I went looking for research-based and proven effective prevention methods in 2008, and I was shocked.

I was not shocked from what I found, but rather from what little there were. For the purposes of this article, I conducted an anonymous survey that asked current school administrators to list “what actions are you currently taking to mitigate the risk of a staff member to student sexual abuse incident.” I sent the link in an email to a thousand private and public K-12 school administrators across the United States. The email was sent on April 23, 2014. 278 responses were
The following are the top five common responses:

- 97% Background checks prior to employment
- 75% Strengthen or revise current school policy
- 71% Supervise or have other staff supervise more closely
- 41% Provide reporting procedure or way to tell adult
- 35% Work with local law enforcement, consultant, or outside agency/organization

After conducting this survey, it became apparent there are items that can launch more in-depth articles and studies:

- Not one administrator listed more than four actions
- 45 administrators asked if there were any more actions that we could recommend for them to take
- 16 administrators listed “regularly check or subscribe to sex offender notification websites”
- 24 administrators listed “educate staff/students/parents on the characteristics of a sexual abuser,” but only two of these administrators listed educating all three

The results I chose to use from this short survey are those that school administrators who took this survey need more of to put in place effective prevention methods to reduce the risk of a sexual abuse incident at their school. (Side note: There is no 100% accurate way of stating the current percentage rate of schools that will experience a sexual abuse incident. This is primarily due to the fact that it would require every sexual abuse incident to be reported.)

THE SOLUTIONS

A 2012 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment (which includes sexual abuse) is $210,012. If we multiply that by 3.5 million students currently in school who report physical educator sexual misconduct that result is more than $735 billion (Fanga, Brown, Florencea, & Mercya, 2012). And that’s just for students currently in school.

— Charol Shakeshaft “Knowing the Warning Signs of Educator Sexual Misconduct”

Listed below are the actions we have our schools take for the past two years. There are additional prevention actions out there, but these fit best into the flow of the “normal” school day operation. Our key point is regardless of the actions taken, they cannot be taken only once and then forgotten. The actions have to be embedded into the daily operations throughout the school and evaluated on a regular basis to make sure they remain effective.

1. Create an atmosphere of “uncomfortability” for person(s) intending harm.
   a) Educate your staff on a regular basis on common sexual abuser characteristics and common characteristics of those who have been abused or have the potential to be abused.
   b) Educate parents on the same characteristics.
   c) Educate students on how to avoid being in compromising situations: What is appropriate “touch” and how/when to report a concern. (All of this should be done with age appropriate guidance and within the cultural guidelines of your school.)
   d) Maintain an anonymous concern reporting system (it has multiple benefits) and regularly send reminders of its existence. Maintain that you want concerns reported in-person. If that is not possible, educating and maintaining awareness on what has been taught will take very little class and professional development time. These actions also will make someone...
taking or contemplating taking inappropriate actions very, very uncomfortable.

2. Rule of Three: At no time should an adult be alone with a child anywhere unless in an emergency situation. (It should be strictly defined what an emergency situation is.) There should always be three people, preferably two adults and one child. Yes, tutoring and one-on-one conferences can still happen, but they will happen in rooms with open doors and/or adults around.

3. Develop a social networking policy so that “secret” conversations cannot be held between a teacher and a student without parents/administrators permission. Emails, texts, posts, etc., should include (have CC’ed to) the administrator and the parent. This protects the student and the staff member.

4. Develop random supervision drop in times from random people for all school activities and areas.

5. Make sure that your extracurricular activity policy contains the following:

   a) Supervision policy that is the same as the school’s (Rule of Three).

   b) Locker room policy that does not have an adult in the locker room without another adult, and does not have kids unsupervised for more than 5 minutes.

   c) Same social networking policy as above.

   d) Transportation policy that does not allow a staff member to transport a student by themselves.

6. Screen your potential employees and volunteers carefully. Background checks that go back only 7 years and only cover the area in which the applicant lived are not sufficient. State laws that do not allow a more thorough background check are usually referenced after it turns out a teacher had multiple convictions in other states but was hired due to having a “clean” background check. Schools can be much more proactive by not accepting “they worked here from this date to that date” as an acceptable reference check. Schools can do background investigations instead of just background checks that verify professional licensure, education degrees, certificates, credit levels, etc.

7. Develop a self-reporting policy. Especially if a staff member is involved in any type of action that would change the status of the background check information that was supplied prior to being hired.

8. Monitor site server logs. Two people should look at server logs for inappropriate sites being routinely blocked/accessed while also looking at the site content and time spent on the sites. It will help make sure those searching for constant “visual stimulation” are not from your school. Despite all the known effort to support that 13-year-old girl I saw in the halls every day, she ended up dropping out of school as a junior. She has three children from three different fathers and two admittances to a chemical detox unit. This section was a brief response to what our schools are facing today in terms of sexual abuse incidents. We have provided some of the prevention methods that can be embedded into the day-to-day culture and operations. Awareness, research, and continued assistance is needed to make schools a safe environment, and further help is needed to end sexual abuse.

By: Sean Spellecy
Chief Executive Officer
NewDawn Security

This article is part of the white paper Campus Security: Responding to Rape and Sexual Assault presented by the ASIS School Safety and Security Council. The full paper is available to ASIS members at no cost on the council’s page on the ASIS website.
Cloud Security Allows For Scalable Campus Safety

The Situation
Central Community College is a multi-campus community college serving a 25-county area in central Nebraska. CCC’s three main campuses are located in Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings. Educational centers are located in Holdrege, Kearney, and Lexington. Additionally, CCC uses a variety of distance learning techniques to provide educational services in some 90 communities in its service area.

The Challenge
Prior to upgrading to Brivo, Central Community College used a combination of lock and key, as well as another access control provider for their access management needs. “From past experience with a different access technology, we knew that customer service with a good turnaround time is quite important to us,” explained Ed Long, Physical Plant Director for CCC.

The Solution
Bill Mooney of Protex Central provided Long and his team with a demonstration of Brivo’s cloud-based access control solution. “Our first impression was that the Brivo system offers features and functionality that were very impressive and leading edge in the industry,” commented Long. After starting the process of looking to upgrade access management in the spring of 2010, Long and his team had 20 doors under Brivo management just over one year later.

To date, Central Community College has installed Brivo OnAir® in six dorms, an administration building, and in maintenance buildings. All doors under management are exterior doors. CCC has allocated budget to expand Brivo to two additional buildings— one academic and one a student services building. Upon completion of this phase, 12 of CCC’s 26 buildings will be managed with Brivo OnAir. CCC manages access for more than 500 people—400 students in the dorms, and staff in the administration and maintenance buildings have also been issued access cards.

Testimonial
“We’re completely satisfied with the system, and the fact that we can scale to whatever and wherever we need to have access control management,” Ed Long, Physical Plant Director - Central Community College.

The Highlights
CCC uses Brivo to manage 12 of its buildings, with plans to extend the advanced cloud-based management capabilities to the majority of its 26 buildings on the 22-acre campus.

“Students dorms are locked 24/7 to provide an extra measure of security and confidence for students. “We really like the Brivo system’s feature for scheduling access on holidays in the dorms—we can limit access and we have a high level of control,” Long remarked.

“We’re real happy with the Brivo system. The learning curve was short and sweet, and Bill and Protex have provided great technical support.”

Long and his administrators manage about 15 separate groups to provide targeted access for students, vendors, and staff. “And if a vendor takes a card home, we can simply shut that card down,” Long explained.

“We’re completely satisfied with the system, and the fact that we can scale to whatever and wherever we need to have access control management.”

“A nother big selling point for us is the one button lockdown feature. Our emergency plan and our ability to lock down the campus is something that comes up quite often. We are able to say with confidence that we have an effective plan.”

Learn more about Brivo:
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