



Education First –  
Safety



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**November 2017**

WSSCA Newsletter

The "news you can use" periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals

## Call for Nominations!

*Due by December 31, 2017*

Second Vice-President  
Board of Directors  
Lifetime Achievement  
Outstanding Service

We are calling for nominations from membership at large for any and all of the categories featured above.

If you are interested in serving as an officer of the organization, know that there are four positions on the Board of Directors that will be open for election, as well as the position of Second Vice-President which follows a path of succession to the Presidency.

Additionally, we are looking for nominations for our annual *Coordinator of the Year* recognition. WSSCA members have received a separate e-mail with information for nominations.

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## Get Involved in Your Organization!

### WSSCA's School Safety Coordinator of the Year

Every year at our Annual Conference we recognize a WSSCA member or members who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and special skills and talents that have contributed to the improvement and maintenance of high-quality safety and security environments in their schools and communities.



We are including the nomination information in this month's newsletter, and I want to encourage everyone who is reading this to consider nominating someone who deserves the recognition. (Self-nominations are welcome – don't be modest!)

Nominations are due **December 1, 2017**. The winner will receive a \$1,000.00 award toward their district's safety programs / initiatives compliments of our sponsors at Community Insurance Corporation.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Looking forward to your nominations, my friends.

Ed

### Need Assistance with Your Emergency Operations Plan?

Every Wisconsin School District is required to have a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and by law, that plan must be reviewed every three



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#### **Board of Advisors**

years. While that requirement was established in 2010, there is still a need around the state for guidance and advice. One of the best resources out there is the US Department of Education's Office for Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS).

REMS will provide- free of charge – both a basic toolkit and an outstanding software application to any school district.

EOP ASSIST 4.0 is the REMS TA Center's software application designed to help schools create and update high-quality school emergency operations plans (EOPs). This application, available free of charge, walks users through the six-step planning process recommended in the *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans* ([School Guide](#)) and exports a customized and downloadable school EOP.

As a Web-accessible software application, EOP ASSIST 4.0 is intended to be installed locally on a state agency, regional education agency, school district, or school server by Information Technology (IT) personnel, and made accessible via a designated Web address to practitioners who are responsible for developing and/or reviewing school EOPs. Installing EOP ASSIST 4.0 on a local server will provide users with complete control over the privacy and security of their school EOPs.

Check them out:

<http://rems.ed.gov/virtual-toolkit/eop-101.html>

<http://rems.ed.gov/EOPASSIST/EOPASSIST.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

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## Winter is Coming – Playground Safety Reminders

### 1. Equipment Can Be Slippery.

Ice, freezing rain or sleet can make the surfaces of playground equipment wet and slippery. It can be impossible for children, especially younger kids who are not as coordinated as older children, to keep their balance or to hold their grip in these conditions.

## **2. Ground Cover Can Be Dangerous.**

Even ground cover can be unsafe and dangerous for children if the temperatures get low enough. Below freezing, and even protective ground cover can fail to protect a child on the playground. At these temperatures, school playground equipment isn't safe for use.

## **3. Snow Can Invite Falls and More.**

It's not the first thing that some teachers and aides and coaches may consider, but snow is especially dangerous for children on a school playground. Not only can snow piling up on the ground and the equipment itself create slippery surfaces that create a risk of falling, but a build-up of snow can create an even scarier danger. Kids playing on slides or chutes in playground equipment that hasn't been cleared of piled-up snow can zip into a snow pile at the end of their run that is too heavy for them to escape. The result can be the death of the child by suffocation.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, playgrounds are worth serious concern for parents and teachers in making sure that the kids are safe to play there. Consider the following CDC statistics:

1. Almost half of all playground injuries are severe injuries to the child, where they suffer concussions, internal injuries, fractures, and even amputations.
2. Most non-fatal playground injuries to children occur during their school day

on a school playground (or a daycare center).

3. Children between the ages of 5 and 9 are at a higher risk of playground injury than any other age group.
4. During the time period 1990-2000, the CDC data showed that over half of the children who died from a playground injury were victims of strangulation.
5. Girls (55%) are at a somewhat higher risk of playground injury than boys (45%).

**Safety Precautions Include:**

1. Monitor weather conditions, since winter weather can change quickly.
2. Make sure that the playground equipment is checked routinely and is properly maintained.
3. Check the children's winter clothing before they go outside to play; make sure that drawstrings or hoods are removed because they can get caught on the play equipment and cause harm.
4. Watch the kids and make sure that younger children aren't trying to use playground equipment that is designed for larger, older children.
5. Never leave the kids unattended or without supervision on a winter playground.
6. Have a plan in place in case a child is hurt while playing on the playground.

**Early Registration is Open for Members!**

*Non-Member Registration Opens December 1 -  
Register Now!*

**Click to Register**



*We anticipate our 2018 conference to sell out! Make sure to reserve your seat.*





## Check out our keynote speaker!

Through the generosity of WSSCA Member and Friend, Dave Trudeau of TruArmor LLC, our keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. I know that Col. Grossman is well-known to many who are tasked with safety and security, and he is sure to be a big draw. I anticipate great interest in our 50<sup>th</sup>, and our Professional Development and Communication Committees are working hard planning for this event.

Click [here](#) to read more about Dave.

## Happy Veterans Day

**To all my fellow Veterans, thank you for your service to our country.**



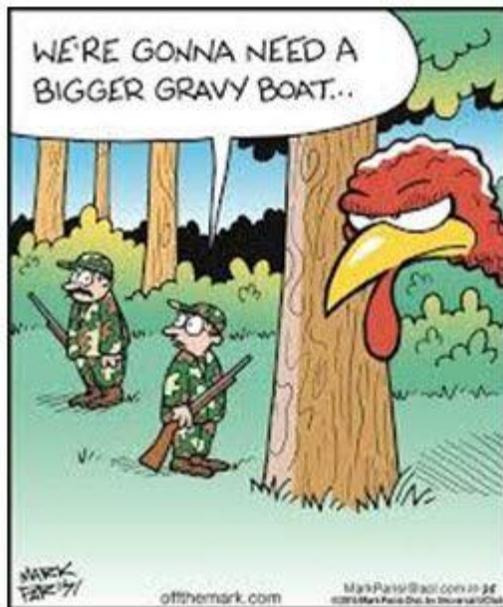
**Deer Hunters: Have a safe and fruitful hunt this year.**

## Quotes of the Month

“In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year.” *Cynthia Rylant*

“The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.” *Judd Gregg*

## Borrowed Humor





School Safety Certification  
2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location
3&8	Environmental, Safety & Health Compliance and School Threat & Vulnerability Assessment	April 25, 2018	Madison, WI

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