



Education First –  
Safety



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June 2017

WSSCA Newsletter

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

## June is National Safety Month

Join the National Safety Council and thousands of organizations across the country as we work to raise awareness of what it takes to Keep Each Other Safe. Observed annually in June, National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities.

The NSC provides downloadable resources highlighting a different safety topic for each week in June:

- **Week 1:** Stand Up to Falls
- **Week 2:** Recharge to Be In Charge (Focusing on Fatigue)
- **Week 3:** Prepare for Active Shooters
- **Week 4:** Don't Just Sit There (Focusing on Ergonomics)

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Click [here](#) to check out the National Safety Council's website.



*WSSCA member Leslie Ptak, Compliance Assistance Specialist with OSHA in Madison has shared this with us. Check out the link at the end of the article. ED*

## Safe and Sound Week

We are excited about OSHA's first-ever **Safe + Sound Week**. The goal is to raise awareness and understanding about the value of safety and health programs among workplaces across the country.

**Safe and Sound Week** will take place June 12 through 18, and organizations of all sizes from any industry are invited to undertake activities to help get a safety and health program started or energize an existing one

Throughout the week, participants can host events and undertake activities that showcase the core elements of an effective safety and health program:

- **management leadership**
- **worker participation, and**
- **finding and fixing workplace hazards.**

While participants are encouraged to implement one activity involving each of the three core elements, even hosting one event or activity is a good place to start.

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OSHA has produced terrific guidance on how to implement activities for each of the core elements or participants can come up with their own ideas. A variety of free tools and templates are available on the **Safe + Sound Week** website to help organizations plan, promote, and communicate about their **Safe + Sound Week** events.

These include: event agendas, checklists, invitations, and flyers; logos, web badges, posters, banners, and decals; press releases, proclamations, articles, and emails; social media shareables and tips; and materials for recruiting other participants.

Register on the OSHA web site and get your event listed on the national map of Safe and Sound Week events!

Visit [www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek](http://www.osha.gov/safeandsoundweek) to see all that is available for you!



Green Bay

Executive Director  
Edward L. Dorff  
Green Bay

**Follow - up to "13 Reasons Why"**

# The Next Threat on the Horizon: The Blue Whale Challenge



*We received some great feedback on last month's newsletter which included the third article in Barbara Dorff's series on coping with the tragedy of the death of a student or colleague, and a lengthy article on the popular Netflix series, "13 Reasons Why." That series continues to receive lots of attention, and just last week our local newspapers ran an article about the increase in crisis calls following attributed to that show. I've included portions of that article written by Rory Linnane of the USA Network-Wisconsin.*

*Following that, I've included information about a horrible social media trend that is coming to the attention of people across the country: "The Blue Whale Challenge." ED*

## **Crisis Calls Jump after "13 Reasons Why"**

*Rory Linnane, USA Today Network-Wisconsin*

When Doug Brey looks at the uptick in crisis calls since the debut of the Netflix show "13 Reasons Why," he's not sure what to make of it.

As the director of crisis services for Winnebago County, he considers a couple explanations. Because of the high-profile show, which depicts a teen's suicide, struggling youth may be finding opportunities to talk about their feelings and seek help. At the same time, youth on the brink of crisis might be dangerously triggered by the difficult content, including what many experts have said is a romanticized portrayal of suicide.

So far this May, 37 minors have been referred to Brey's crisis team for intervention. For the same period in 2016, there were 26 referrals.

"I can't say for sure if that's all because of '13 Reasons Why,' but it's probably contributing to the uptick," Brey said Tuesday at an Oshkosh community discussion on the show organized by Community For Hope.

Brey's not the only one grappling with this trend. Staff at the HOPELINE, a text-in crisis line based in Kaukauna, have also seen [more activity that they attribute directly to the show](#), as texters have said "13 Reasons Why" triggered feelings of depression and anxiety.

While opinions on the show vary, panelists Tuesday stressed the need for parents and community members to watch the show and start discussions about it with youth who've seen it.

"There's a lot of good that can come from this, but there's also people who are attempting suicide from this," said Debbie Peters, director of Community for Hope.

Meanwhile, Brey said over the past few weeks his office has been unable to find inpatient psychiatric beds for adolescent youth anywhere in the state. They're all full. He believes "13 Reasons Why" is a contributing factor to the high demand.

[Read more](#)....Click [here](#) to read the full article.

### **Police, Schools are Warning Parents about Possible Online Suicide Game - Blue Whale Challenge**

There is a new fad gaining traction across the country involving an online game known as the, "Blue Whale Challenge." While there is discussion about whether this is a hoax, there is enough evidence for us to give it due attention. There are legitimate reports in the United States of kids participating in this game, in which participants are assigned a series of challenges beginning with simple innocuous tasks, and ultimately leading through more risky and dangerous behaviors culminating in suicide.

This online game, which is accessed through an app that kids download, started overseas, and international press has multiple reports of kids engaging in self harm as a result of this, "game."

Here is a chilling news report from a TV station in Kansas City. Please watch.... click [here](#).

# Summer Projects?

## Workplace Safety



*Note: Students and staff are about to leave for the summer, and our B&G crews along with our contractors will have free and unfettered access to the buildings and grounds to accomplish all those projects that need doing, right? Not so fast there, Ed!*

Everyone working in facilities knows that while the school-year calendar says that the 2016-2017 school year is about to end, they also know that our buildings and grounds continue to get regular, sometime heavy use during the brief summer months.

This “down time” ideally gives us better access to the sites and places we need to work in as we scramble to get all those summer projects done on time. However, we know that workplace safety, whether it’s in a major construction project, or a simple maintenance function such as reconditioning floors can be compromised by staff and students who, quite frankly, get in the way and ignore safety precautions.



My advice as a former principal to site supervisors, Building and Grounds Directors, project managers, and facilities workers who are looking toward the many important projects that have to be accomplished includes:

- Meet with and speak to the building principal at the specific sites about the summer work that must be accomplished. **Do this now.**
- Suggest that the principal/administrator include a note/article in the summer newsletter about the summer projects and the facts about the need to keep people out of and away from the work being completed.

- Be comfortable with the fact that while the projects are going on, you, not the teacher, student, (or even principal for that matter) are in charge of the area. Don't compromise on safety.

Be safe this summer. The summer work that you are doing is often unheralded, and taken for granted. Know that it is vital and greatly appreciated by everyone who sees the big picture.



Register for our next  
professional learning  
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Certification Course Modules 1  
and 6

October 25, 2017

Holiday Inn Madison at The American Center  
Madison, WI 53718

If you are interested in learning more about our certification program  
click [here](#).



## WSSCA's 50th Anniversary Conference and Expo



February 26 - 27, 2018

Mark your calendars!  
Registration opens June 30,  
2017.



We anticipate our 2018 conference to sell out!

WSSCA member registration will open on **June 30, 2017.**

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 conference keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Dave Grossman. Dave is a well known national renown speaker. He is well know to many who are tasked with safety and security.

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

*Watch for emails regarding upcoming registration.*

## Quotes of the Month

"The safety of the people shall be the highest law." – *Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman philosopher born in 106 BC*

"Teaching the world to be careful is a constructive service worthy of God's great gift of life to man." – *U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harold H. Burton (1946)*

## Borrowed Humor





### School Safety Certification 2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location
1&6	Health and Safety Compliance Part A General Aspects of Crisis Management	October 25, 2017	Madison, WI

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