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**The WSSCA NEWSLETTER**

**For March 2016**

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

## **48th ANNUAL WSSCA CONFERENCE AND EXPO**

**INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**

**MARCH 7-8, 2016**



**SCHOOL DISTRICT REGISTRATION**

### **Conference Time Is Here**

We are putting the final touches on WSSCA's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual School Safety Conference and Exposition and I do hope that you are able to attend. We have almost 140 registrants and nearly 50 sponsors/vendors bringing in another 80 or so people to the event at The Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. I understand that our allotted block of rooms was filled and Joey G at the Kalahari kindly opened up more space for us.

Our good friend and erstwhile Executive Director Pete Pochowski is, as I write, winging his way to Hawaii for a well-earned vacation. I know it was his earnest wish that the 48<sup>th</sup> would be the best conference yet, and I thank him for all he did to smooth the way for me in this, my first Conference as Executive Director.

I'm sure it's obvious to anyone that a major event like we are about to enjoy requires lots and lots of willing hands to carry off. We may have pushed the envelope on some of our time lines this year, and I am eternally grateful to the folks who have been assisting every step of the way.

First, I want to offer thanks to our IT Director, Bob Severson. He has been a champ at keeping things rolling every step of the way as we approach March 7<sup>th</sup>. Alyssa Moen and Abbey Roesch were invaluable in getting the Conference Book put together, printed, and delivered. Our Board of Directors – where do I begin with this great group? Beating the bushes for attendees, engaging vendors, new and veteran alike, acquiring items for the silent auction, and all the work they will be doing at the event itself just scratch the surface in describing their efforts to bring the 48<sup>th</sup> to fruition.

I know it's true that for everyone who is heralded, there is at least one, if not more, doing much of the heavy lifting. The staff at the Kalahari have been great to deal with, and I can't imagine a better venue based on how well they are serving our needs. Many thanks as well to the families of the Board of Directors, the Members, and the Friends of WSSCA who have been contributing to this effort.

Finally, a word about our sponsors and vendors. They have been terrific. If not for their generous support, an event such as we are about to enjoy just flat out isn't possible. To those coming to the Conference, I ask that you spend lots of time with our exhibitors. You may not have need for their service or product today, but you may in the future. You will also find that our vendors are valuable members of the informal school safety network we rely upon.

Once again, I hope to see you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!

*Ed*

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*The importance of real-time information in an emergency cannot be overstated. Our EOPs depend in large part the availability and reliability of both land lines and cellular communications. Are we prepared for the loss of those services? What do we have should the land lines go down? What if cellular service is unavailable? President Ellis shares some excellent information that all safety coordinators should have in their repertoire. Ed*

## **GETS/WPS**

Do you know what GETS/WPS is? How it can help you in case of an emergency? Think of the storm system that covered most of the eastern half of the US on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. The National Weather Service reported sixteen tornados related to the storm, high winds and locally heavy rains. In many of your communities your schools may be emergency shelters and get activated to assist your community.

This is where GETS/WPS can be invaluable for you. GETS is the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service. A system set up by the Department of Homeland Security that can help your ability to communicate when an emergency strikes your community. With GETS your call is recognized as a priority call on the landline network you are using. Complementary to GETS is WPS – the Wireless Priority System, offered by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), was developed to address the growing need for priority communications for select cellular users.

In Massachusetts, forty three thousand were without power due to the enormous storm system that hit the northeast. Seven thousand more in Maine, sixty-two thousand in New Jersey and forty thousand in New York, along with thousands more in the region. Severe weather is an event that most of us will experience multiple times in year. As with those storms yesterday, some of you will experience a loss of power and thus reduced access to your technology. A reduction in your ability to communicate and respond to the events of the moment can have devastating consequences.

GETS/WPS is a system that is usually free to join (check with your local carrier) for national leadership; federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments; and other authorized national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) users. Per Homeland Security, “It is intended to be used in an emergency or crisis situation when the wireless network is congested and the probability of completing a normal call is reduced.” You do get charged when you call via the GETS/WPS information and use your PIN number.

In the last decade we have become more dependent on technology especially our phones. In the event of an emergency cell phone towers may be damaged or become jammed because of excessive use. If you review GETS/WPS you may be better able to respond and to help your community and your schools recover from what emergency you are dealing with.

You can get more GET/WPS information at: [www.dhs.gov/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets](http://www.dhs.gov/government-emergency-telecommunications-service-gets)

**Robert Ellis, President, WSSCA  
East Troy School District**

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*When I started working at my last school, Green Bay East High School, I came across what seemed to be an odd piece of equipment for a school without a swimming pool: a life ring on a long length of strong rope. No, we didn't have a boating curriculum, but our school was right alongside the East River. Over the years since the school opened on that site in 1925, there were any number of times we had foolhardy individuals decide that the ice on the river might make for a nice detour. To my knowledge, we never lost anyone through thin ice, but we know it happens all too frequently. Here is part of an article reprinted from the Wisconsin DNR website. The weather is getting warmer, and it's a good time to provide reminders in our schools – whether they are next to a body of water or not. Ed*

## **Ice Safety**

**If you head out to one of Wisconsin's many lakes or rivers to ice fish, snowmobile, ATV, cross-country ski, or just to enjoy a winter day, we want you to have fun and be safe. A bit of advance planning and practicing basic ice precautions can help you return home safely.**

### **When is ice safe?**

There really is no sure answer, and no such thing as 100 percent safe ice. You cannot judge the strength of ice by one factor like its appearance, age, thickness, temperature or whether the ice is covered with snow. Ice strength is based on a combination of several factors, and they can vary from water body to water body. Ice strength can also vary in different areas of the same body of water.

### **Know before you go**

Because ice conditions vary, it is important to know before you go. The DNR does not monitor local ice conditions or the thickness of the ice. Local bait shops, fishing clubs and resorts serve winter anglers every day and often have the most up-to-date information on how thick the ice is on local lakes and rivers, as well as areas that are especially dangerous.

### **Safety tips**

- Dress warmly in layers.
- Don't go alone. Head out with friends or family. Take a cell phone if available, and make sure someone knows where you are and when you are expected to return.
- Know before you go. Don't travel in areas you are not familiar and don't travel at night or during reduced visibility.
- Avoid inlets, outlets or narrow that may have current that can thin the ice.

·Look for clear ice, which is generally stronger than ice with snow on it or bubbles in it.

·Carry some basic safety gear: ice claws or picks, a cellphone in a waterproof bag or case, a life jacket and length of rope.

### **What to do if you fall through ice**

If you fall through the ice, remain calm and act quickly.

1 Do not remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes can trap air, which can help provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true in a snowmobile suit.

2. Go back toward the direction you came. That is probably where you will find the strongest ice – and what lies ahead is unknown.

3. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks are handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.

4. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.

5. Once back on the ice, don't try to stand up. Lie flat until you are completely out of the water, then roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.

6. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and warm yourself up immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold-water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to warm up. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!

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## Quotes of the Month:

“When one is a stranger to oneself then one is estranged from others too.” – *Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1955*

“Don’t look back. Something may be gaining on you.” – *Satchel Paige, 1953*

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## Borrowed Humor of the Month:

Barbara and I went to Hawaii. We met a young mom who had SPF 150 sunblock for her kids. She squeezed the tube and a sweater came out.

Don’t knock the weather though. If it didn’t change once in a while, nine tenths of the people couldn’t start a conversation.

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Edward L. Dorff  
Executive Director and Editor

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## Visit our conference sponsor and vendor booths on Monday March 7th

Access Security Corp Activer Construction Products Group AiPhone Corporation Alice Training Institute Apex Online Development ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions Systems Axix Communication Baycom, Inc. Belfor Property Restoration Boldtronics, Inc. BR Bleachers Capital Fire & Security, Inc. Centec Security Systems, Inc. CESA 10 Clear Armor Communications Engineering Company (CEC)	Community Insurance Corporation EMC Insurance Companies Engineered Security Solutions, Inc. Enterprise Systems Group Environmental Management Consulting (EMC) Fair Skies Consulting Fearings Audio-Video-Security Hillyard Identification Verification Systems J+J Flooring Group Kelmann Restoration Kenwood Communications Lee Recreation LLC March Networks McKinstry Miller and Associates	M3 Insurance MacNeil Environmental Inc. Nassco, Inc. Per Mar Security Performance Services Raptor Technologies Response Technologies Robinson Brothers Environmental Safe-Latch Salient Systems Service Master Recovery Services Shona Venture Somerville, Inc. Stanley Security Solutions Tricor Insurance US Department of Labor-OSHA
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### Executive Director

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