

2010 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo

Special School Offer — Workshops on May 5

8:00-11:40 AM

Understanding and Preventing School Shootings in the U.S.

-Dr. Marisa R. Randazzo, Threat Assessment Resources International

During this three-hour presentation, Dr. Randazzo will review facts about school and campus shootings and discuss implications for prevention. She will also compare various prevention models, including clinical risk assessment, profiling, and using automated tools to predict a person's potential for violence. The presentation will include a thorough discussion of school and campus threat assessment, which is considered the current best practice for identifying and intervening with persons at risk for violence in educational institutions. This presentation will include case studies of individual school and campus shooters as well as prevented attacks and successful intervention strategies.

1:00-2:00 PM

Hardwired for Survival: How to Train for Emergencies According to How Your Brain Actually Works (not how we wish it works)

-Amanda Ripley, Author and TIME Magazine Contributor

Drawing upon lessons from 9/11, the Virginia Tech shooting, the London transit bombings, and major plane crashes, Amanda will explain how human beings operate in disasters--and how we can train to do better. What happens to us--physically, psychologically, and even socially--in the worst of times? Why do survivors so often report that emergency plans were useless to them when they needed them most? Amanda will share stories from disasters she has covered and the latest research into human behavior under extreme stress in order to help us design memorable, powerful emergency plans that work the way we work.

2:20-3:20 PM

Safe School Assessments, Why, Who, How?

-Capt. Robert Berbohm, Ret., Escanaba Public Safety Department

Beginning in 2003, about the time the State was developing a "safe school" grant and assessment process, Captain Berbohm and a local principal did an assessment of their own. The two entered nearly 30 different schools with Captain Berbohm dressed in blue jeans, flannel shirt, hat, and a dirty coat, carrying a lap top computer. The question is how many times were they stopped? Attend the workshop to find out!

3:40 – 4:40 PM

Michigan's "Outbreak" of School Closures During H1N1 Pandemic

-Jim Collins and Melinda Wilkins, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)

Following the introduction of the novel Influenza A strain (H1N1) to the United States in the spring of 2009, the "second wave" of the illness resulted in a significant increase in disease transmission in the fall of the same year. The Michigan experience was unique in the nation in that this transmission increase precipitated a dramatic increase in school closures. More than 550 schools in several regions of the state closed in response to this pandemic even though school closure was not a recommended mitigation strategy. In partnership with the CDC, the MDCH has been evaluating data obtained through disease surveillance, school closure reporting, and multiple surveys to better describe and explain the Michigan experience. This presentation will summarize some of the early products of that research.