Welcome to the Inaugural 'Safety Edition' of Roundup!

As a regional service agency providing support to 31 school districts, the SCCOE recognizes the need for clear and comprehensive safety and emergency communication. Our goal is to increase situational awareness of safety by creating a "culture of safety."

Thus, on a quarterly basis, your regularly scheduled News Roundup will be solely dedicated to safety and emergency communication updates, news, and tips to keep you prepared and in the know. As Will Smith once said, "if you stay ready, you don't have to get ready."

Emergency Communication and Response Protocol Team Spotlight

The Emergency Communication and Response Protocol Team consists of both Ridder Park and off-site employees who saw an opportunity to fine tune and improve our current protocol. Today, meet the SCCOE staff member leading these efforts.

Michael Vallez, Emergency Preparedness, School Safety & Security Administrator

Explain your background in emergency preparedness. What made you first get involved?
-I want to help others be safe and be a resource and a partner to the community, so pursuing a career in emergency preparedness, safety, and security was a natural fit for me and it's something that I am extremely passionate about.

I had my first experience in emergency preparedness, safety, and security working as part of the Loss Prevention/Asset Protection team at Mervyn's. Working there allowed me to help staff and guests by addressing needs at the store and district level as it related to emergency preparedness, safety, and security. I worked with Mervyn's until the chain closed in December 2008.

I was extremely fortunate to join the SCCOE in January 2009 as part of the Risk Management team, which allowed me to continue my work in the arena of emergency preparedness, school safety & security. I worked in Risk Management for 7.5 years before transferring to HR as a Staff Development Specialist, which allowed me to continue to help staff through the design and delivery
of professional development workshops and training. In Fall 2019, the position of Emergency Preparedness, School Safety & Security Administrator was posted, and I jumped at the opportunity to apply.

My current position is challenging but also truly rewarding as it fits right into my passion of helping staff, students, and our partners address issues that are on everyone’s mind as it relates to emergency preparedness, safety, and security. I am honored to hold this position for the SCCOE and am excited about the things that we can do together to help everyone feel safe and supported!

**What is your vision for the SCCOE in terms of safety and disaster preparedness?**
-I envision us creating and maintaining an environment of being prepared, not paranoid. In order to achieve this vision, we all need to take on an active role where we work on addressing the emergency preparedness, safety, and security needs of the organization.

I see my role as an active partner and stakeholder in this vision. I am a firm believer in addressing needs with force multipliers. The more staff that are trained, developed, and supported on this piece the more force multipliers we have at all of our locations working together with the common goal of maintaining a high sense of awareness, a high sense of being supported, and a high sense of being trained on the skills sets needed to create a culture of emergency preparedness, of being safe, and of being secure.

**What can each SCCOE staff member do to contribute to a safe and secure work environment?**
- Be involved and stay involved! The more eyes, ears, ideas, and input we have on how to create a safer environment, the better we will be as an organization. I’ve always believed that communication is the key. If you see something that looks like an issue, tell someone. If you see a better or different way to do something that will help your area be safer, share it with someone.

Emergency preparedness, safety, and security is on everyone’s mind both at work and at home. As staff members, understand that my new role as the Emergency Preparedness, School Safety & Security Administrator means that I can and will be a resource for you and your site/department. By working together, we will continue to make the SCCOE a safe and fun place to work!

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**Bring the Heat!**

It seems as though summer hit the bay area early this year, with triple digits scorching throughout Santa Clara County just last week. Residents who do not take the necessary precautions to stay cool are at risk of heatstroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, sunburn, heat rash, and in severe cases death.

This summer, stay mindful as temperatures begin to climb. Take safety measures to stay safe and lend a helping hand to colleagues, family, and friends. If you know a vulnerable person without air conditioning, please help them get to a cooling center or other air-conditioned space between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. [Click here for a full list of cooling centers in Santa Clara County.](#)

Check out these additional tips to help you stay safe and cool this summer!
- Drink plenty of water
- Limit physical activity: Avoid physical activity during the hottest time of the day, typically
between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Stay in air-conditioned areas
- Cool off by taking a cool bath or shower
- Wear lightweight and loose-fitting clothing
- Never leave anyone or pets in closed, parked cars
- Do not bundle babies in blankets or heavy clothing
- Cover your head
- Wear sunglasses and sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Rest often in shady areas

Disaster Service Workers

As members of #TeamSCCOE, we are committed to serving students and educators. But did you know that as a public employee, we are also a disaster service workers (DSW)? This means that in the event of an emergency such as a major natural disaster, we are required by law to report to work to provide disaster service to the public.

With this in mind, all SCCOE employees should have emergency plans for their families that take into account their public duties and possible absence during an emergency situation or disaster. If said disaster occurs during non-working hours, ensure the safety of your family then contact your immediate supervisor to receive directions.

Thank you for your continued service!

Tip Corner

10 SAFETY TIPS FOR A FUN 4TH!

The Fourth of July is right around the corner, and the smell of BBQ and fireworks is already in the air! Make sure you, your family, and your friends enjoy this upcoming holiday safely with these helpful fire safety tips!

1. Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
2. Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities and never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
3. If you set off fireworks, keep a bucket of water handy in case of malfunction or fire.
4. If fireworks malfunction, don't reignite them! Douse and soak them with water then throw them away.
5. Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially one that is glass or metal.
6. Use your grill well away from your home and deck railings, and out from under branches or overhangs.
7. Open your gas grill before lighting.
8. Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below your gas or propane grill so it cannot be ignited.
9. Establish a three-foot "kid and pet-free zone" around the grill to keep them safe.
10. Avoid loose clothing that can catch fire when cooking on the grill.
ReadySCC and AlertSCC - Tools for Preparedness

The Bay Area can often times be a hectic place to live and work, and emergency preparedness might not be on everyone’s list of priorities. Luckily, there’s an app for that!

**ReadySCC** helps Santa Clara County residents and workers stay prepared and protect their loved ones in the event of an emergency. This interactive app helps users create an emergency supply kit, stock food and water, first aid kits, go-bags, as well as store critical information like out-of-town contacts and meet-up locations for family members!

It also serves as a hub for information on common disasters in the region, such as earthquakes, floods, and fires. Users also get access to information about local services, resources, and tools that you may need during a disaster. ReadySCC can be found in any app store or downloaded [here](#).

**AlertSCC** is a free, easy, and confidential way for anyone who lives or works in Santa Clara County to get emergency warnings sent directly to their mobile device, email, or landline.

AlertSCC can reach you wherever you are to provide information and instructions in a variety of emergency situations, which may include:

- Flooding, wildfires and subsequent evacuations
- Public safety incidents, including crimes, that immediately affect your neighborhood
- Post-disaster information about shelters, transportation, or supplies

Sign up [here](#), and tell someone you love!

#ShowMeYourAED Competition

In 2007, Congress passed a resolution recognizing June 1-7 as National CPR and AED Awareness week to spotlight how lives can be saved if more Americans know CPR and how to use an AED.

Team SCCOE is doing our part with the #ShowMeYourAED campaign! This social media competition encourages both Ridder Park and off-site staff to locate and take a photo with the AED at their site and post it to Facebook using the hashtags #ShowMeYourAEd and #SCCOEHeroes.

All submissions will be entered into a drawing to win a Starbucks gift card. Deadline to post is August 30!
Want to share departmental events or news?

Is your team or department working on an interesting project or offering a service that you want to share? Submit a project request to Media & Communications for a social media post or campaign! We want to share the story of SCCOE with our audience, and that includes sharing what we all do every day.

Draft a brief memo (100 words or less), have it approved by your division chief, and email it to communications@sccoe.org no later than the Thursday before issue date or call (408) 453-6824 for questions and News Roundup event tips.