
Making Old Schools Safer It is Possible!



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Let's look at some low-cost interventions that can enhance school safety.

- Provide training for your local fire, police, and emergency responders. They should understand the layout of your school facility: where the phones are located, where master controls are located, and how to operate the intercom and or bell system.
- Design the outside school property with appropriate signage, vegetation, fencing, and clearly defined boundaries.
- Assure there are no obstacles or landscaping obscuring the view of the entrances and exits; have periodical checks to ensure these areas have clear views.
- Keep the outdoor lighting well maintained.
- Place cameras in niches and blind spots around the school building indoors and outdoors.
- Install faceplates on the exterior doors to prevent jimmying of locks.
- Renumber all interior doors and floors of multilevel buildings so that the numbering makes sense and is sequential.
- Develop two-way communication systems between all classrooms or rooms in which children may be served.

While many of our current schools have not been designed with safety and security measures in mind, with thought, professional development, and relatively small financial investments, older schools can be made safer.

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