



Tabletop Exercise: Extreme Decision-Making for Extreme Problems

1. You are a principal of a school that was just notified of a tornado heading your way. It's dismissal time. You have different dismissal times: one for walkers, one for parent-pick up and one for busses. It is a very fast moving tornado and you need to take action immediately. What do you do: a.) with the kids that have already boarded their buses but have not left campus yet, b.) what about parent pick up and c.) what about the walkers who have not been dismissed and remaining bus riders who have not yet boarded their buses?
2. You are a principal who has an appointment with a mother of one of your students after school. It's two minutes before dismissal. Bus riders are lined up in preparation to board their buses while non-transported students are in their classrooms looking out the windows. You are in route to your car to retrieve your laptop computer from the trunk. Upon returning to the school you see the mother who you are going to meet with. You decide to walk over and greet her and walk her into the office...just as you get within less than 10 feet away, a man approaches her with a gun and shoots and kills her then turns the gun on himself. Staff and students who are in the immediate area saw the actual events take place and the aftermath. What do you do?
3. You are the Principal of a high school with 1,500 students. You have two assistant principals on staff. Both of your APs are out for the day for mandatory professional development (of course!). You have one SRO who is in the building.

A fight breaks out in the hallway between classes that you and the SRO break up. One of the students involved in the fight apparently contacted his mother prior to the fight so she is waiting in the office when both students are brought to the office by you and the SRO. The student whose mother is in the office starts screaming and refuses to calm down and is extremely disruptive on the way to the office and still yelling, cursing, spitting, etc. You were not informed that the mother of one of the "fighters" is already present in the office. You and the SRO bring both students into the office. Immediately the mother begins hitting the student who was fighting with her son. The son gets out of the SRO's grasp and joins the affray. The SRO pulls out his pepper spray to spray the student and his mother. He accidentally sprays himself, the student fighter and the mother in the affray and they are all on the ground still somewhat wrestling and in pain. You are feeling some of the effects of the pepper spray because you were standing nearby. What do you do?

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4. You are a principal seated in the gymnasium during the annual spring music concert (late May). Approximately 100 students are seated on the gym floor ready to perform either with the chorus or orchestra. The gym is literally packed with parents and grandparents. This is the highest attended event of the school year. Everything is going well and the concert is nearing completion when you observe that parents in the stands are beginning to get fidgety. Some are talking excessively in small groups while others are blatantly using their cell phones. At that point one parent comes up to you and says, "We are under a tornado warning and a tornado has been spotted just outside of town heading our way!!" Parents with this news begin to run for the doors and are creating a panic among the audience and students who do not know what was happening. Just then everyone hears the emergency sirens in town begin to blast which just reinforces the fact that you are in an emergency situation. Everyone is running around and panic has set in. What do you do?
5. You are a principal of a middle school and your secretary comes to you and reports that a very high profile parent (who is the TV Anchor for the 6 and 11 o'clock news), who is attempting to check her child/student out of school for the day, is noticeably intoxicated. She smells of alcohol, her speech is slurred and she is stumbling around the office. The PTA/parent volunteer who is helping in the office is trying to admonish the student office workers are laughing while attempting to stall the intoxicated parent until the principal can address the problem. What do you do?
6. It's 25 minutes before the start of the school day and you receive a call from someone in the community that the driver of one of your school buses has been shot while picking up students in a very remote area of the county. The caller thinks that the shooter was a student and is unsure about the condition of the driver. The bus in question transports students to and from several schools. The normal driver of that bus is also the grandmother of several of your students. What do you do?
7. You are hosting the Boys Regional Basketball Tournament. The two top rivals in the region have made to the final game. The gymnasium is packed...and each student section is taunting each other with cheers that involve the word "suck!!" Pandemonium has set in...the game has begun. During one of the plays, a player "takes" a charge and when he falls backward he hits his head and is knocked out. The Crowd is silent as team officials attend to the injured athlete. Then you hear a "pop" and then students begin to scream... "There's a gun...someone's been shot!!!"
The players on the floor and referees are standing the middle of the floor looking up into the crowd when a

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second shot is heard and one of the ball players falls to the floor holding his leg. What do you do?

8. It's Prom night! And yes, you are the principal (lucky you) and everything is going just fine. No drunk students (yet) and everyone has passed the dress standard and the kids are dancing reasonably appropriate (for a change). The prom started at 8 p.m. the long lines for the pictures have finally dwindled and the kids are enjoying the dance, food and punch. Life is good! One of the parent chaperones comes to you and tells you there is a girl who is sick to her stomach in the girls restroom...but she is not apparently drunk...no smell of alcohol. Just then your assistant principal, who "lives" on Facebook...comes to you with a scared look on his face. He just found a posting of a statement on-line that "proudly" announced that a student has poisoned the food that was prepared in the culinary classes for the prom. What do you do?
9. You are a principal...it's Friday night and you are supervising a home football game. There's been a threat of rain all day...but just a few sprinkles have hit the ground. The referees for the game are a seasoned team of officials and have been officiating for 30 years together (who proudly claim they are from the "Old School of Football Officials") and have travelled four hours to officiate this game. As the game progresses, thunder is heard on the horizon. A few minutes later, lightning is seen with the thunder quickly come behind the flash. Your head coach signals over to the head official and points to the sky. The official shakes his head, "no" and keeps the game going. The crowd starts to seek shelter under the bleachers and some leave the area and go to their cars. Now, it is a down pour with lightning in the immediate area and the officials still haven't suspended the game. What do you do?
10. Your basketball program has gone down the tubes. The 20 year veteran coach cannot seem to put together a team that will win. Your team has been an embarrassment for the past 5 years. No one shows up in the stands to watch...the program is losing money and it's time for a change. You call the coach in and tell him that you are terminating his coaching assignment with the school. He vehemently disagrees and calls all of the media outlets and holds a press conference stating how he is being mistreated by the administration of the school. Furthermore, he calls on the community to protest this unfair dismissal and asks them to peacefully protest in support of the many years he has "given" to this program. On Monday morning, there is a picket line of former basketball players (some who are prominent community leaders) are protesting across the street from the school. Students are staging sit-down strikes in the cafeteria, hallways and on the walk in front of the

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school. Some 25% of the staff members are calling in sick and of course, there are not enough substitute teacher available to cover the mass teacher absences. Community members are driving by honking their horns in protest. The news media is having a field day and cameras are everywhere...both on campus and across the street. No one is going to class; teachers and principals are unable to get the kids to move. Unfortunately, your SRO has been called to the hospital to tend to a gravely ill parent. What do you do?

KCSS Resources

Bus Safety: <https://kycss.org/resources-and-responders/bus-safety/>

Emergency Guide: <https://kycss.org/emergency-procedures/emergency-guide/>

Natural Disaster Response: <https://kycss.org/emergency-procedures/natural-disaster-response/>

School Violence: <https://kycss.org/school-safety-issues/school-violence/>


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