



*Safer Communities To Live & Learn*

## The Millennium Minute

*Newsletter*

### Conducting "Vulnerability" Assessments

Ben Franklin's famous adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is one we should all take to heart, especially when considering the safety of our children. While school should be a haven for kids, the reality is we need to be prepared for worst-case scenarios. The best way to do that? By conducting regular vulnerability assessments. These assessments help gauge what's working and what's not when it comes to security measures and procedures.

Here are some things to keep in mind when conducting vulnerability assessments at schools, colleges, and universities:

- Do you have all the necessary systems in place, such as a "badge program" for teachers, students, and visitors? Are any systems antiquated and should you consider updating technology?
- Are all procedures documented for staff, students, and parents? How often are these procedures tested, tweaked, and re-distributed?

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##### President's Message

It's hard to believe January 2008 is coming to a close. It's even harder to believe that we're halfway through the school year-some colleges head out on spring break in a little over a month! And while time may seem fleeting, the one thing that's constant is the need to protect our children. We hope you find our "vulnerability assessment" strategies helpful in this month's Millennium Minute.

As you know, we unveiled our new website last year. Your positive feedback has been extremely encouraging, and I welcome hearing more comments and suggestions as to how we can improve the site and better serve our dealers and end users. And, of

- What sorts of communication plans are in place and are they effective? For example, if a school goes into lockdown because of a threat outside the school, how is this lockdown communicated to the community and to parents? You should have "plans" for every level of communication—from how you communicate information on new security measures, to how you communicate during emergencies, to how you communicate on everything in between. ([Interested in a quote for your own custom alert system? Contact Millennium Group](#)).
- What training do you offer staff, students, and parents? For example, how often do you train staff on what to do during a lockdown or during a natural disaster, such as an earthquake or flood?
- How do you measure the effectiveness of your school's security systems and procedures? Are independent audits conducted? If yes, how often? If no, is this something that you should consider?
- What educational programs does your school offer? For example, how often do you have programs or seminars on things like bullying, sexual harassment, and preventing violence on school grounds? How do you ensure involvement from students and staff when you offer these programs?
- Are clear and effective emergency procedures in place and is your school equipped with the necessary tools and equipment, regardless of the type of emergency?
- Do staff members have clearly defined roles and responsibilities during emergencies and security breaches?
- When's the last time you've tested back-up systems, such as alarms, generators, computers, phone systems, etc.?

Remember, it's not enough merely to put [alarms](#) and [keyless entry systems](#) in place. You need to address safety in a holistic way. Understand where and how your school or your customer's school is vulnerable and then be proactive—eliminate the vulnerabilities through tougher security measures by prioritizing findings and taking action now rather than later.

course, I welcome your suggestions for future newsletter topics as well.

Here's to a happy, healthy, and secure 2008!

**Sincerely,**

Greg Goldman, President  
Millennium Group

email:

**[ggoldman@millennium-groupinc.com](mailto:ggoldman@millennium-groupinc.com)**

phone: **866-455-5222**

fax: **508-651-2902**

website:

**<http://www.millennium-groupinc.com>**

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