



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

City of Temple and Belton ISD join forces to conduct active shooter tabletop exercise

TEMPLE, TX (June 7, 2023) - Today, the City of Temple and the Belton Independent School District (BISD) came together to execute a crucial active shooter tabletop exercise. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the safety and security measures in our schools and ensure the well-being of our students, teachers, and staff.

The tabletop exercise, conducted at Lake Belton High School, simulated a realistic scenario to test emergency response procedures and evaluate the effectiveness of communication channels, coordination, and decision-making during a potential active shooter incident. The exercise involved representatives from Baylor Scott and White Hospital, Bell County Emergency Management, Bell County Sheriff's Department, Temple EMS, Belton Fire and Emergency Management, Belton Police Department, Capital Area of Texas Regional Advisory Council, Central Texas Regional Advisory Council, Morgan's Point Police, Temple Fire and Rescue, Temple Emergency Management, Temple Police Department and the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

"The safety of our community's children is our utmost priority," said Temple Police Chief Shawn Reynolds. "By partnering with the Belton Independent School District, we can proactively identify potential areas for improvement and strengthen our emergency response plans. This exercise serves as a testament to our commitment to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment."

BISD Superintendent Matt Smith echoed the sentiment. "There's a common thread throughout the Big Red Community - we all want the safest school environment possible for our students and staff," Smith said. "Collaborative training exercises with our partners help ensure that our emergency protocols are aligned, comprehensive, and effective. We appreciate the dedication and expertise of the City of Temple and other key stakeholders. We will continue to work together with our partners to provide the highest level of safety for our school community."

Throughout the exercise, participants assessed various emergency response procedures, including lockdown protocols, communication methods, and coordination

with law enforcement agencies. The tabletop exercise provided a valuable opportunity to identify strengths and areas for improvement, allowing the City of Temple and BISD to refine their emergency response strategies continually.

"Preparing for emergency situations is a continuous process, and tabletop exercises like today's play a vital role in enhancing our response capabilities," said City of Temple Emergency Management Program Manager Jennifer Henager. "By identifying areas for improvement and fine-tuning our procedures, we can ensure a rapid, coordinated, and effective response in the event of an active shooter incident."

Both the City of Temple and BISD remain committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. The active shooter tabletop exercise reinforces their dedication to proactive emergency preparedness, ongoing collaboration, and continuous improvement.

In the summer of 2023, the City of Temple will conduct another active shooter tabletop exercise with the Temple Independent School District (TISD) and other community partners.

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