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Media Advisory

Hillsboro School District, Police, Fire to Conduct Large-Scale Parent Reunification Drill

Drill to test protocols and procedures for managing reunification of families following a significant school incident

April 8, 2016, Hillsboro, OR –Today, staff members from the Hillsboro School District, Hillsboro Police Department, and Hillsboro Fire and Rescue will conduct a parent reunification drill at Hillsboro Stadium (4450 NW 229th Ave., Hillsboro) to simulate the activities that would take place in the event there was a safety incident at a school that required evacuation and relocation.

The drill will include approximately 400 student*, 200 parent, and 100 staff volunteers from Hillsboro School District, as well as a number of Police and Fire personnel—both as participants and observers. (*April 8 is a no school day for students due to the end of third quarter.)

The District has a history of strong collaboration with Police, Fire, and Emergency Response agencies, and conducted a multi-day school violence simulation in 2012 at South Meadows Middle School that allowed all shifts of those emergency response teams to participate. The event was filmed and has been made available for training purposes to other communities around the country.

Today's event will also be filmed and documented for training purposes and so that all organizations can learn and make improvements to their response plans.

"These drills provide us with a unique and valuable opportunity to put our plans into action," explains Casey Waletich, Executive Director of Facilities, Planning, and Operations. "We are very grateful to our partners in Police and Fire for helping us with the logistics and execution of these events so we can enhance the knowledge of our staff, and increase the safety of our schools and students."

Media who are interested in covering this event are encouraged to arrive at Hillsboro Stadium between 11 and 11:30 a.m. when the drill is fully under way. Please check in at Incident Command when you arrive.

For additional assistance, please contact:

- Safety and Emergency Preparedness Manager Michelle Brady (bradym@hsd.k12.or.us; 503-844-1324)
- Safety Secretary Christy Woodard (woodardc@hsd.k12.or.us; 503-844-1343)
- Multimedia Specialist Jane Siguenza (on-site Communications contact; siguenzj@hsd.k12.or.us; 503-844-2761)
- Communications Specialist Marleen Zytniowski (on-site Communications contact; zytniowm@hsd.k12.or.us; 503-844-1771)

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