



Shawnee Local School District  
3255 Zurmehly Rd.  
Lima, OH 45806

4/21/2023 External Communication  
Exercise date revised to Wednesday, May 17, 2023 on 4/25/2023

Parents/Guardians/Members of the Community,

I want to personally thank all the families of Shawnee Local School district for their continued support. It is wonderful to serve a district that cares deeply about their children and the school. While education is a high priority at Shawnee, the safety of our children is the highest priority. Over the past year I have met monthly with a student advisory group. This group is composed of students in grades 8-12. These students review numerous topics relating to our school system as a whole. They've discussed monthly evacuation and lockdown drills that the buildings conduct to prepare for a possible act of violence or emergency at the school. It was during one of those discussions that the question was raised as to why they, as students, have never participated in a simulated exercise.

Planning for a simulated exercise with staff and student participation began at that time, nearly one year ago. Through a cooperative effort with Shawnee Township Police and Fire Departments, Allen County EMA and Shawnee staff and students, the District will be able to review its safety procedures and execute a potential scenario on a full scale using this simulated exercise. **This full scale exercise will be held Wednesday, 17 2023 at 8 am.** We anticipate that it will take 60-75 minutes to complete.

The purpose of the exercise is to test the district's capability of dealing with an emergency situation with multiple agencies responding. For grades K-4 (Elmwood and Maplewood students), the exercise will involve only staff during the time in which students are being transported to school. Those who are participating in grades 5-12 (Middle and High School students) will be focusing on how to safely navigate a dangerous situation in the event it ever happens at Shawnee. It is very unfortunate that we have to hold such exercises, however, it is better to be prepared.

**On the day of the exercise, all district buses will run on a normal schedule. Morning and afternoon transportation for Elmwood, Maplewood, Middle and High School will run on time.** The exercise will simulate an accident involving a tanker truck. There will be a necessity to evacuate to a location on school grounds. We realize that the exercise could make some students very anxious, and we respect your right as a parent to withhold your student from the exercise. If you do NOT want your middle or high school student to experience the safety exercise, you will need to bring them to school on a two-hour delay schedule.

Parents and community members who subscribe to District text alerts can expect an increase in text notifications during the exercise. For your reference, we've included the scripts that will be used when sending text alerts.

**Initial Message:**

THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE. Information in this alert is for training purposes. There has been a tanker accident near the middle and high schools. Students and staff are being evacuated. AVOID THE AREA. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE.

**Second Message:**

THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE. Information in this alert is for training purposes. All middle and high school students and staff have been evacuated. Emergency responders are on scene. We've been told the tanker was carrying anhydrous ammonia. AVOID THE AREA. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE.

**Final Message:**

THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE. Information in this alert is for training purposes. We have been given the all clear. Middle and high school students will return to class. Counselors are available. THIS IS A TRAINING EXERCISE.

Following the exercise, we will release a community feedback survey on our website. Please take a moment to complete the survey so we can use the information to continue to improve our safety measures.

If you have any questions, please contact a building principal or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jude Meyers".

Jude Meyers,  
Superintendent