



Sangamon County Regional Training Center

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9-1-1 GOES BACK TO SCHOOL WITH OUTREACH FOR 1ST GRADERS

9-1-1 is going back to school! The Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Department, which manages the 9-1-1 dispatch center, will begin its annual 9-1-1 public education program in elementary schools. Currently, there are about 120 first grade classrooms with nearly 3000 first grade students.

According to deputy director, Ken Davis, "Our goal is to present to every 1st grade classroom every year."

Modeled after the 9-1-1 education program offered by the Texas' Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), Sangamon County will be providing similar materials. Davis said that the CSEC provides education material for 9-1-1 training including a DVD highlighting their cell phone mascot Cell Phone Sally and her friends. Davis said, "Distributing these materials in Sangamon County will help save lives".

The "9-1-1: Getting Help Is Easy" DVD explains the different styles of phones and how they are used to dial 9-1-1. A sample of the video and the characters can be found at http://www.linedash.com/cps/CPS_WEB.html.

Other topics within the DVD include:

- When do you call 9-1-1
- What to say when the 9-1-1 call taker answers
- Certain things to remember when on the phone
- Using old cell phones
- When do you not make a 9-1-1 call



According to procedures and education analyst, Galen Becker, "Each teacher will receive a '9-1-1: Getting Help Is Easy' DVD and teacher's packet after the presentation." The presentations will be conducted by Sangamon County 9-1-1 administrative staff and telecommunicators (dispatchers).

The students also receive a 9-1-1 pledge card they can sign which indicates they know how and when to use 9-1-1 and they will do so responsibly. Becker said, "We hand out 'goodie' bags with 911 coloring books, crayons, stickers, etc." to each student who attends the presentation.



The Sangamon County ETSD would like to extend a special "Thank You" to Medics First and LifeStar Ambulance Service, Inc. for providing funds necessary to purchase the classroom materials. Without the support of community companies, this program may not be possible.

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The Sangamon County ETSD will begin contacting school administrators soon to schedule their presentation. School administrators who would like to schedule the presentation for their school right away should contact Galen Becker at 217.753.6849 or GalenB@co.sangamon.il.us.