



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Center for the Prevention of School Violence

Michael F. Easley
Governor

George L. Sweat
Secretary

North Carolina's Critical Incident Response Kit (CIRK) Project:
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is "CIRK"?

"CIRK" refers to the critical incident response kit. CIRKs are being recommended by the North Carolina Attorney General's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Center for the Prevention of School Violence, and the Department of Public Instruction as essential components of crisis response. These agencies are recommending that schools should maintain and be ready to share their CIRKs with first response law enforcement and emergency responders.

2. Who will receive the kits?

Each public school in North Carolina and each central office (superintendent) will receive one starter kit during the month of February, 2002, during Phase I of the project. Also during Phase I, all sheriffs, police chiefs, and county emergency response agencies will receive a training video and booklet which explain the CIRK.

The agencies responsible for the project intend to address the needs of North Carolina charter and private schools during Phase II later this spring.

Interested parties outside the state of North Carolina should contact the Center for the Prevention of School Violence (Catherine Anderson 800-299-6054) for more information.

3. What is in the kits?

The starter kits, black plastic file boxes donated by Lowes, Companies, Inc., contain a training video, booklet, organizational stickers, and information about technical assistance. The starter kits, black plastic file boxes donated by Lowes, Companies, Inc.,

contain a training video, booklet, organizational stickers, and information about technical assistance. Additional file boxes may be purchased at office supply stores (Office Max; Office Depot; Staples) or discount stores (WalMart; Kmart; Target)

Schools in seventy eight counties in North Carolina will also receive ALLTEL phones intended for use in emergencies. Provision of the phones has been made possible by the North Carolina Attorney General. Questions about the ALLTEL phone distribution should be directed to Jay Chaudhuri at the North Carolina Attorney General's Office (919) 716-6400.

4. What should I do when I receive the kit?

Read the booklet, watch the video, and review the technical assistance information (“Now That You Have the Kit...Find Out How to Use It”) that you will find in the starter kit. Choose the assistance that best fits your needs. If you have questions, contact the Center for the Prevention of School Violence (William Lassiter 800-299-6054) or the Emergency Management Division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety (Dianne Stanton 919-733-3426).

5. Who should see the video?

The video should be viewed by school personnel, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders. It is not intended for students or general public viewing.

6. How was the CIRK Project funded?

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission funded the CIRK Project.

7. Why was the CIRK Project undertaken?

The 1999 Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety recommended that “every school should be given the tools needed to develop and implement stronger school safety plans” and further that schools should “share their plans and coordinate closely with the appropriate crisis response agencies . . . to ensure that strong communication and rapid response [are] established at the local level in the event of emergencies.”

North Carolina's Attorney General Roy Cooper, the Center for the Prevention of School Violence in North Carolina's Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction began in early 2001 to generate such tools and promote such collaboration. The Critical Incident Response Kit project offers an approach which enables schools and communities to be “at the ready” should an incident take place. The Columbine Commission report validates many aspects of the approach offered by the CIRK Project.