



JOE LESTER
Sheriff

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SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**
CCSO begins Safe School program

Cleveland County Sheriff's deputies have introduced a program to area school districts that will give teachers the necessary training and tools to keep students safe if danger strikes on campus.

In August, the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office initiated "Safe School" training with Noble Public Schools. The program entails two phases.

Instruction begins with a presentation that focuses on signs and steps to follow once a child has reported abuse. It also covers how to observe signs that a child has been abused whether physical or sexual.

The second portion of training starts with the A.L.I.C.E. presentation. The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate.

Capt. Chris Tipton, SRT commander and patrol supervisor, instructs the program. Tipton is a certified A.L.I.C.E. instructor.

"This is a course designed to inform teachers and faculty proper techniques to defend against an active shooter, more so than simply just locking down," Tipton said. "The last two hours is a series of realistic scenarios that involve simulated suspects and also actual police officers. During the scenarios the suspects and officers are armed with Simunition weapons that provide the most realistic training possible. Also during the scenarios the teachers will fully participate by not only playing their part as teachers but role playing students as well. These scenarios accurately show the teachers and faculty members involved how deadly active shooters can be."

Deputies completed active shooter training with Noble High School employees in August. Curtis Inge Middle School teachers and employees accomplished both training phases Sept. 26.

Curtis Inge Middle Middle School Principal Ronnie Fulks said last week's training was very beneficial to faculty. The program gave staff members a different view point of an active shooter incident.

"It's important to go through those drills," Fulks said. "This allows them to expand their knowledge and know how to react."

Once schools complete both training portions, CCSO presents school administrators with a "Safe School" certificate.

CCSO Special Response Team and deputies provide training to faculty. Deputies

collaborated with Noble Police and Noble Public Schools Campus police departments to present training to Noble Public Schools.

Sheriff Joe Lester said this partnership is valuable for the department and school districts. It increases safety for students and teachers.

“We are excited to work with these schools and make them as safe as possible,” Lester said.

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.