

# LPS Security Timeline and History

## **1980–Present: School Resource Officers (SROs)**

Since the 1980s, SROs have always been a part of the school community in Littleton Public Schools (LPS). SROs are sworn law enforcement officers who are responsible for providing a law enforcement presence in LPS school buildings. SROs are employed by the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and the Littleton Police Department (LPD), and they work closely with administrators in an effort to create a safer environment for both students and staff. The responsibilities of SROs are similar to regular police officers in that they have the ability to make arrests, respond to calls for service, and document incidents that occur within their jurisdiction. SROs typically have additional duties as well, including mentoring and conducting presentations on youth-related issues. SROs play an integral role in LPS and have had many positive impacts on the students.

## **1991: First Emergency Protocols Planning**

In early 1991, LPS and the local law enforcement (ACSO and LPD) created one of the first comprehensive school emergency response plans in the country. This early response plan covered the expected responses of law enforcement and the school district to potential emergencies. This plan included each school setting up building emergency response teams. The collaboration between organizations enabled the district, with the contribution of law enforcement, to plan for possible future incidents. The district was able to plan and prepare for potentially hazardous situations. Classroom emergency action flip charts first appeared as a result of this endeavor. Schools also began to perform drills such as lockdowns and tornado drills.

## **1993: Early Burglary and Vandalism Response Deterrents**

In 1993, LPS started to see a rash of school burglaries. These burglaries often took place after hours and were often disruptive to school business. In conjunction with law enforcement consisting of ACSO patrol deputies, LPD officers, K-9 officers, LPS Security put several practices in place that were effective to counter the burglaries and vandalism incidents taking place in LPS schools. This was the pre-video surveillance period. Between 1994 and 2000, every burglary that took place at an LPS school was thwarted by these practices. These practices also encouraged a mutual respect between the district and the community because they reduced vandalism to our schools by 69–85 percent. In addition, the lessons learned from these incidents spawned the design of the district's asset protection program several years later.

## **1994–Present: Radio Interoperability**

Throughout the 1990s, the ACSO strived to provide radio interoperability to LPS. Radio interoperability enhances the ability of the community to respond to an emergency together by enhancing the communications. For example, during school and community emergencies, the district has been able to utilize the same radio systems that law enforcement uses. It helped the district coordinate security and resources during the

Columbine shooting in 1999. In 2001, the ACSO brought LPS onto the 800 MHz radio system. All LPS schools and programs have had radio interoperability since that time. LPS was one of the first districts in the country to have radio interoperability. Radio interoperability has since been mandated by legislation. This ability to communicate on the same radio system as local law enforcement proved to be one of the most valuable tools we had for the response to the Arapahoe High School active shooter incident in December 2013.

### **1997–Present: School Emergency Management Program**

In 1997, LPS and key members from ACSO and LPD met up and discussed ways for the district to provide a computer program that contained comprehensive, interactive, hyperlinked information that included emergency contacts, main utility shut-off locations, building floor plans, maps, video photography, related community information, and aerial photographs. This discussion generated the School Emergency Management Software Plan. The district put out the first versions of the program in January 1999. As a result, LPS received a distinguished Pinnacle of Achievement award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International in 2001. The software evolved as LPS received suggestions from key members from ACSO and LPD. In addition to the ASBO award, many school districts and police agencies around the country were inspired by LPS's program implementation to collaborate and create their own programs. Each LPS school now has their own intranet emergency planning website. In the Arapahoe High School active shooter incident, the intranet emergency planning website was used by the district and law enforcement to quickly access the school's information.

### **1999–Present: The Greater Littleton Youth Initiative**

In 1999, the Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI) was started. GLYI is a strategic approach to enhance the development of young people and to prevent youth violence. The Initiative was formed by the City of Littleton, Arapahoe County, Littleton Public Schools, Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health District, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, the South Metro Denver Chamber, the 18th Judicial District, members of churches and other organizations, and citizens who care about the young people of the greater Littleton community.

### **2000–Present: LPS Emergency Planning and Safety Committee**

In 2000, LPS, ACSO, and other community partners started the LPS Emergency Planning and Safety Committee. This committee meets on a monthly basis. The ACSO gave thought and input into the direction the district took regarding security and emergency planning practices. This group is still intact and continues to meet 13 years after its inception.

### **2000–2004: First Emergency Plans Installed on Pocket PC**

Working with the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers and other key industry insiders, LPS Security was asked to contribute to designing programs and layouts of emergency plans that could be stored on Pocket PC for law enforcement officials. Several

programs were created and then utilized by law enforcement officers. LPS was credited with developing the first program for the first Pocket PC, the Cassiopeia Pocket PC.

### **2002–Present: LPS Integrated Security System**

In 2002, ACSO and other community partners helped plan and design the district's integrated security system. At the time, LPS was one of a few school districts who had plans for such a system. The design and cooperation served as a national model, which brought the district much recognition in the security industry. In 2004–2007, the new integrated security systems went online for the district. The systems were built with input from members of the district, ACSO, and other community partners.

### **2003–Present: Incident Command System Adopted**

In 2003, LPS, ACSO, and other community partners adopted the national Incident Command System (ICS). Under the direction of the LPS Emergency Planning and Safety Committee, all LPS schools adopted this system. In addition, each school had to participate in ICS procedure drills. ICS has proved to be immensely valuable in the school district when emergencies have arisen. In the Arapahoe Active Shooter incident, ICS was run by the entire district.

### **2003–Present: Classroom Emergency Flip Charts**

In 2003, LPS, ACSO, and other community partners released a new classroom emergency response plan. Classroom emergency flip charts were distributed to all schools and have been updated periodically and redistributed over the years.

### **2003: Active Shooter and Unified Command Drills**

The first of many active shooter drills were conducted in LPS schools in 2003. These drills consisted police and fire response to simulated emergencies in LPS schools. The district learned how to support the response and about the principals of incident command and unified command.

### **2003–2005: LPS Security Contributes to Wearable, Portable Computers Industry**

LPS Security assisted several key industry developers in designing first responder technology. LPS contributed the School Emergency Management Planning Software (SEMPS) program and generated many other ideas to improve first responder response capabilities.

### **2004: District Receives Award for Security Design**

LPS received a Security Honor Award from Access Control and Security Systems for influencing the security industry. This award was the result of the district's work with law enforcement and other community partners.

### **2004: Washington D.C. Conference**

LPS Security spoke with Congressman Tom Tancredo and law enforcement officials on community preparedness in the Littleton area to members of Congress and other government officials. LPS spoke on SEMPS, emergency planning, and how technology could help schools and law enforcement in responses to school emergencies.

**2004: ISC Security Show in Dallas**

LPS Security spoke at the ISC Security Show on integrated security in schools.

**2005: Security Executive Council in San Diego**

LPS Security spoke before industry CEOs about integrated security systems and needs of schools and first responders in dealing with school emergencies.

**2005: Surviving School Violence**

Law enforcement started training school staff how to respond to school violence.

**2005: School Attendance Review Board**

LPS Security reached out to community partners, including law enforcement, Greater Littleton Youth Initiative (GLYI), the Binning Family Foundation, the City of Littleton, and the Littleton Immigrant Resource Center, among others, to create a unique solution for school attendance. Members from each agency make up the School Attendance Review Board, a voluntary and confidential authority that works with families to help them get their kids to school every day. The board works out a contract with the family, which is enforced by truancy intervention specialists, who have been known to bang on an absent student's bedroom window first thing in the morning to get them out of bed and then give them a ride to school.

**2006: LPS Security Recognized by *Security Magazine***

LPS Security was recognized as one the top 25 leaders the security industry by *Security Magazine*. This was largely due to the collaboration between LPS Security, local law enforcement, and other community partners.

**2007–Present: LPS Security Added to the *Security Magazine* Advisory Council**

2007 LPS Security was added to the Security Advisory Council. This was partially due to the collaboration with law enforcement and other community partners.

**2008: LPS Begins Compliance with State Law**

LPS refines emergency response protocols to comply with state law, which was enacted with the passage of Senate Bill 08-181, "The National Incident Management System and Colorado School District Compliance."

**2008–2014: LPS Security Appointed to FBI InfraGard Board**

LPS security assists the FBI in community emergency response and appointed to lead the education sector.

**2009: Webinar to Security Industry on Active Shooter Incidents and Other Threats**

A national webinar on emergency protocols for active shooter incidents and other threats in schools was provided by LPS Security and ACSO. The audience was the security industry. This inspired other districts and law enforcement agencies to develop their own programs.

**2010: Webinar to Security Industry on Radio Interoperability**

LPS Security and local 800 MHz providers provided a national webinar on 800 MHz radio interoperability and how schools could work with law enforcement and the government to improve emergency response.

**2010: LPS Joins the Red Cross Ready Rating**

The Ready Rating is a program that helps businesses, schools, and organizations become prepared for disasters and other emergencies by evaluating plans and programs they have in place. Membership also comes with training opportunities, and it allowed LPS to begin training employees on first aid and CPR.

**2011: LPS Bolsters Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program**

LPS Security obtained a grant from the Red Cross for 32 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), which are portable electronic devices that measure electrical impulses from the heart when attached to a patient. The AED will then give instructions to a layperson to apply electrical therapy to restore the heart's effective rhythm. AEDs are now in every LPS facility, and employees are trained on their use, and Security ensures the upkeep.

**2011: SEMPS Intranet Websites Go Online**

All LPS schools have their own emergency planning websites, access to which has also been provided to law enforcement. These websites are great places for first responders and school ICS teams to obtain information from, and since they are intranet-based, they are not accessible to outside entities.

**2011: District ICS Plan Redraft Completed**

The entire district ICS plan was redrawn and adjusted jointly with law enforcement partners. All teams and schools were trained on the new plans.

**2012: Physical Security Information Management Webinar to Security Industry**

LPS Security and other security industry officials gave a national presentation on Physical Security Information Management Systems (PSIMS). This is the direction the district is taking with its security and emergency planning systems.

**2012: LPS Security Starts Red Cross First Responder Training**

LPS Security certified key members of its team to become Red Cross trainers. The security team has trained and certified several hundred LPS employees since the program began.

**2012: LPS Security Featured in *Security Magazine***

LPS Security is listed in the K-12 Top 20 and Security 500 in *Security Magazine*.

**2012–2013: LPS Implements “Buzz-In” at Elementary and Middle Schools**

Visitor buzz-in was initially implemented in 2012 at elementary and middle schools at the advice of security and law enforcement. The practice enhances the safety and security of staff and students at each site. The program will be refined and improved with the upcoming bond projects.

**2013–Present: “How to Respond” Basic Protocol Training**

LPS implemented the “How to Respond” training in 2013, at the advice of law enforcement. This covered and emphasized lockdown, lockout, evacuation, and room clear. Drills are regularly conducted at all LPS schools.

**2013–Present: Revised Incident Command Plan and Emergency Flip Charts Released**

With input from law enforcement, LPS revised both the school-level and district-level ICS plans and distributed districtwide. Additionally, new Classroom Emergency Flip Charts were distributed to each school.

**2013–Present: Digital Local Radios Deployed**

Heritage High School was the first school to migrate to digital radios for local communications. This improvement solved tremendous communication issues in the schools for staff and first responders and was implemented throughout the district.

**2013: LPS Security Featured in *Security Magazine***

LPS Security is listed in the K–12 Top 10 and Security 500 in *Security Magazine*.

**2014: Network Digital Video Recording (NDVR) System Deployed at Arapahoe**

The video surveillance system at Arapahoe High School changed to an NDVR system, following plans that were made early in the 2013–2014 school year. Implementation was accelerated after the active shooter incident to enhance security at the school. Fourteen new surveillance cameras were added.

**2014–Present: Revised Security at Arapahoe**

Kiosk guard centers were placed at key entrances of Arapahoe High School, per the advice of LPS Security and law enforcement.

**2014: “How to Respond” Terminology Changed**

“How to Respond” training changed to address new terminology of lockdown, secured perimeter, evacuation, and room clear. This helped the district to use language that is not confusing in case of an emergency, as previously there was confusion between “lockdown” and “lockout.”

**2014: Classroom Emergency Flip Charts Revised**

Revised Classroom Emergency Flip Charts are distributed to all LPS schools and facilities.

**2014: District ICS Plan and Emergency Flip Charts Revised**

LPS's ICS plan was redrawn districtwide and updated Classroom Emergency Flip Charts were disseminated. Schools are in the process of learning and training on new changes.

**2014: Homeland Security Conference**

LPS Security was a guest speaker regarding active shooter response at the Homeland Security Conference in Philadelphia. LPS Security gave their perspective on how to respond to the unthinkable.

**2014: LPS Honored for Emergency Planning**

At its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Red Cross in Denver, the American Red Cross honored LPS for the proactive emergency planning practices employed by the district

**2014: National Access Control Webinar**

LPS Security participated as a guest speaker on a national webinar regarding access control and how to improve school security. Law enforcement also participated in this planning.

**2014: Security Industry Association (SIA) Best Practices Board**

LPS Security was invited to be on the SIA Best Practices Board and is working with the security industry, schools, and law enforcement on best practices for school safety. This is a national board.

**2014: LPS Security Featured in *Security Magazine***

LPS Security is listed in the K–12 Top 10 and Security 500 in *Security Magazine*.

**2014: LPS Security Receives Red Cross Award**

LPS Security received the American Red Cross Century of Heroes Award for Emergency Planning.