

FOR **School Transportation**[®] *News*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washoe County School District, Emergency Professionals to Stage Mock School Bus Crash on Wednesday

TORRANCE, Calif. (July 25, 2011) – Schools Prepared and Ready Together Across Nevada, or SPARTAN, is teaming with the Washoe County School District and local first responders to conduct a full scale exercise on July 27 to practice regional collaboration and responses necessary among in the event of a school bus emergency.

The "Broken Axle Reno Exercise" will simulate the collision of two school buses, caused by a lumber truck traveling on Mt. Rose Highway. . One of the buses is overturned on the highway and strikes the other school bus. School District Police and Transportation staff will respond to the scene as if it was an actual crash, and students from local Boy Scout Troops will play the roles of victims as emergency personnel conduct rescue, triage and transport actions. . The event is scheduled to be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at:

Washoe County Regional Public Safety Training Center
5195 Spectrum Blvd.
Reno, NV 89512

The exercise used the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program to plan and conduct the training. The mock school bus crash concludes the two-day SPARTAN Conference, a school emergency planning meeting in Reno, Nev., on July 26 and 27. Organizers expect approximately 100 people attending this conference from school districts across Nevada. The first day consists of workshop sessions at the Grand Sierra Resort, in conjunction with the 18th Annual [North American School Bus EXPO Conference and Trade Show](#) (STN EXPO) presented by SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION NEWS magazine.

"Emergencies can happen to anyone, anywhere at any time," said Chris Smith, SPARTRAN project lead and the Transportation and Facilities Systems Administrator for Washoe County School District.

“Schools are not immune to emergencies and we must be prepared to handle these trying situations, right, the first time. We do not get a chance to do it over in real time, so these exercises are critical to us getting it right, when it matters the most, when children and staff are involved in an emergency situation.”

The Broken Axle exercise was also coordinated with Risk Solutions International, an operational risk consulting firm providing public and private sector clients on emergency and crisis management, business continuity, continuity of operations, disaster recovery and loss control strategies, execution and compliance. Risk Solutions authored school emergency plans for the entire state of Nevada.

In all, 480,000 school buses transport about 25 million elementary and secondary students each day to and from school. Nevada school districts transport approximately 125,000 students each day using a fleet of 2,500 school buses, the majority of which run in and around Washoe County or Clark County, alone. School transportation representatives from both school districts are among this year’s STN EXPO faculty.

The full STN EXPO conference agenda can be found at www.schoolbusconference.com.

About SPARTAN

SPARTAN is a grant-funded initiative that was developed to address issues pertaining to school emergency management in the state of Nevada. This conference is designed to share the best practices in school emergency management with attendees. The focus is on schools and how they must be prepared to initially deal with all hazards at all times.

About the STN EXPO

The North American School Bus EXPO Conference and Trade Show presented by SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION NEWS magazine, www.stnonline.com, has run 18 consecutive years since its inception in 1994, 15 of which have been in Reno. Formerly the pupil transportation industry’s Western Region Conference and Trade Show, Reno has been the home of the STN EXPO since 1996. This year’s conference boasts 60 workshops, three general sessions, two pre-conference seminars and a six-hour trade show featuring 110 vendor companies on July 26. Approximately 700 attendees – school district transportation directors, school transportation personnel, state agency representative, school principals/administrators, safety trainers and child passenger safety technicians – are expected to attend this week’s show along with more than 500 representatives from vendor companies participating in the trade show.

About School Transportation News

Launched in 1991, SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION NEWS is a monthly news magazine that reaches more than 24,000 readers each month qualified by BPA Worldwide and 90,000 pass-along readers. The magazine and web site, www.stnonline.com, influences some 650,000 school transportation employees nationwide responsible for administering and managing the 10 billion student rides on the school bus annually throughout the United States. The publication is a valuable resource for all those dedicated to safely and efficiently getting children to and from school. The publication contains the latest news and features affecting public school districts, private bus companies, educators, parents and community leaders. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION NEWS also publishes the industry’s largest and most comprehensive Web site, www.stnonline.com, containing more than 1,500 pages of vital industry information, and STN eNews, a free weekly electronic newsletter.