
Build Sustainable School Response Teams by Lucien Canton is a Must Read for All Principals

Author Lucien G. Canton, CEM clearly explains why school emergency teams need to train together, trust each other and respect team leaders. "Response is not about individual effort. Effective response combines the efforts of many people working together towards a common goal. The more preparation you give your team, the better your response."

Keeping It Real: Building Sustainable School Response Teams is about team building and leadership. Going it alone in a crisis is not an option; you need a team to back you up. But who should be on that team? How will you prepare them? How will you use them? Lucien Canton offers practical suggestions for recruiting, training, and using an effective school response team.

"Many of the plans I review are technically correct but completely unworkable. I believe plans need to be simple and achievable within the available resources. In other words, realistic. Emergency preparedness needs to be part of how you do business on a daily basis; it can't be something you only consider during a crisis."

Lucien Canton also provides templates that principals can use to cover a lot of ground, while keeping things simple. "I'm a big believer in keeping things simple and not overloading people with too much information at once. My goal is to provide concepts that can be adapted to the unique environment of each school." The *Keeping It Real* series of guides marries solid theory with realistic solutions for preparing for and responding to crisis. Future guides will include *Keeping It Real: Incident management: The Ideal vs. the Reality* and *Keeping It Real: Preparing You Institutions for Crisis*.

Lucien Canton has a lifetime of experience in emergency management and he has made his book exclusively available at www.safetolearn.com as part of the Safe to Learn Community project, dedicated to improving education by fostering/cultivating safe learning environments for children. To purchase your own copy and support the Safe to Learn community, go to http://www.safetolearn.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html.

Q &A with Lucien Canton, CEM

1. **How did you decide to come up with the “Keeping It Real” Series?**

I’m a big believer in keeping things simple and not overloading people with too much information at once. School preparedness covers a lot of ground and I thought a series that covered things step by step was a better approach than trying to cram everything into a single document.

2. **Why did you decide to write “Building Sustainable School Response Teams”**

Much of the guidance I see from the government assumes best case and lots of resources. It’s good information but not realistic in many cases. I wanted to provide principals with a system that could be scaled to their particular school.

3. **How did you come up with the title(s)?**

Many of the plans I review are technically correct but completely unworkable. I believe plans need to be simple and achievable within the available resources. In other words, realistic.

4. **What do you hope the principals, APs and members of the school response teams will discover from each of your eBooks?**

My goal is to provide concepts that can be adapted to the unique environment of each school. My hope is to stimulate thinking among school planners about what they really need to do rather than just provide fill-in-the-blanks templates

5. **Is there any message you would like to share with principals?**

Emergency preparedness needs to be part of how you do business on a daily basis; it can’t be something you only consider during a crisis. The more your emergency plans build on existing relationships and resources, the more your team is used to solving problems together, the more likely your plans are to succeed when you really need them.



About Lucien Canton's *Keeping It Real* Series

There is a lot of information freely available about preparing for a crisis. Unfortunately, a lot of that information, while well intentioned, ignores the reality of limited resources and espouses ideal rather than practical solutions. The *Keeping It Real* series of guides marries solid theory with realistic solutions for preparing for and responding to crisis.

Author Lucien G. Canton, CEM clearly explains why school emergency teams need to train together, trust each other and respect team leaders, "Response is not about individual effort. Effective response combines the effort of many people working together towards a common goal. The more preparation you give your team, the better your response."

- **Keeping It Real: *Building Sustainable School Response Teams***

Going it alone in a crisis is not an option; you need a team to back you up. But who should be on that team? How will you prepare them? How will you use them? This guide offers practical suggestions for recruiting, training, and using an effective school response team. (2015 Release)

- **Keeping It Real: *Incident Management: The Ideal vs. the Reality***

The Incident Command System (ICS) used by public services is solid, proven system. But is it the right one for your institution. This guide looks at what is really needed to manage an incident and how you can best prepare your team for this challenge. (2016 Release)

- **Keeping It Real: *Preparing Your Institution for Crisis***

Many crisis plans focus on what happens after an incident has occurred. But this is only half the story. There are things you can do to prepare before a crisis that can increase your chances for a successful response. This guide identifies areas you should consider in your planning and suggest practical tips for integrating preparedness into your daily activities. (2016 Release)



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Keeping It Real: *Building Sustainable School Response Teams*

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About Lucien G. Canton, CEM

When Lucien Canton talked his way into the San Francisco emergency operations center to offer his services during the Loma Prieta earthquake he never expected that it would spark a career change that would send him to exotic locations in the Pacific and the Caribbean, involve him in Federal disaster planning at the national level and see him appointed by Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr in 1996 as the Director of Emergency Services for San Francisco. Lucien was used to reinventing himself. A career officer who left the Army to travel in Africa and earn an MBA, he had begun a promising career in private security. Nevertheless, following Loma Prieta he joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency and began a new profession as an emergency manager.

Emergency management was the perfect fit for Lucien's creativity and strong people skills. He developed a reputation as a stabilizing influence in chaotic disaster operations, serving in over seventeen presidentially-declared disasters and on an elite national response team. Lucien's reputation brought him to the attention of Mayor Brown and an invitation to head San Francisco's Office of Emergency Services. As Director of Emergency Services for the City of San Francisco, he was responsible for coordinating the City's emergency management program and serving as a policy advisor to the Mayor on emergency management and Homeland Security issues.

Since 2004, Lucien Canton has been an independent management consultant specializing in helping managers lead better in crisis by understanding the human factors often overlooked in crisis planning. He believes that a consultant's job is to partner with the client to change the client's condition for the better over the years; he has emerged as a major thought leader in emergency management, advocating the use of management concepts to professionalize a field that is often mischaracterized as a technical discipline. A frequent speaker at national conferences and guest lecturer at universities both in the United States and abroad, his book, *Emergency Management: Concepts and Strategies for Effective Programs*, is used as a textbook for both graduate and undergraduate courses.



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