

## Rick Tobin's "Ten Tips for Teachers for Safer Schools" Inspires Classroom Safety Preparedness

Rick Tobin's *"Ten Tips for Teachers for Safer Schools"* provides easily implemented tips for classroom teachers to improve the safety environment in their school and to increase their skills for emergencies. "The intent is to build the skills in students from year-to-year from K-6, middle school and finally high school. Each one of my three guides specifically addresses the unique environments and challenges of all three developmental groups, and the needs of teachers in those settings. For instance, the high school guide gives specific curriculum activities by topic areas since there are so many courses now offered in high schools."

The original intent for writing the first guide of the series was to provide teachers simple ideas that would bring attention to safety in their classrooms. "I've been a school teacher. I know how much every teacher cares everyday about the safety of the students in their classes. I wanted to bring them tools that focused on a 'can do' approach, rather than the typical regulatory 'you have to' jargon," explained Tobin.

"My approach also avoids fear. My guides build on skills and confidence. Teachers want to know that what they are doing is the right thing, at the right time, done the right way. What has been done in the past has not worked effectively to ensure our schools are safe places to learn. These simple safe guides provide tips to empower our classroom teachers to change that paradigm now, as the true first responders for our children's safety."

To purchase your own copy of *Ten Tips for Teachers for Safer Schools* visit the Safe to Learn Store and select the eBook for teachers in [high schools](#), [middle /junior high schools](#) or [elementary schools](#). It is also included in the Leadership & Safety Series [STORE](#).

## Q &A with Rick Tobin

**1. Why did you decide to write “The Ten Tips for Teachers for Safety” Series?**

“I’ve been a school teacher. I know how much every teacher cares everyday about the safety of their kids. I wanted to bring them tools that focused on a ‘can do’ approach, rather than the typical regulatory ‘you have to’ jargon. My approach also avoids fear. My guides build on skills and confidence. Teachers want to know that what they are doing is the right thing, at the right time, done the right way. What has been done in the past has not worked effectively to ensure our schools are safe places to learn. These safe guides provide tips to empower our classroom teachers to change that paradigm now, as the true first responders for our children’s safety.”<sup>1</sup>

“Each one of these three guides specifically addresses the unique environments and challenges of all three developmental groups, and the needs of teachers in those settings.”

**2. What do you hope the principals, APs and members of their school response teams will discover from reading your guide and participating in the exercises?**

“I hope teachers will discover ideas to help them improve the safety environment in their school and to increase their skills for emergencies.”

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

“Each book in the series builds on skills and confidence...to empower our classroom teachers to change that paradigm now, as they are the true first responders for our children’s safety.”

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<sup>1</sup> Reference Interview 7-13-2015 Web Wire <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=198817>

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## More About the 3 Versions of Ten Tips for Teachers Safer Schools Series by Rick Tobin:

### Elementary School Teachers

This unique approach builds on proven methodologies for required emergency and safety subject areas that need to be implemented in classrooms, starting with the youngest students. There are also ideas to make each classroom safer, and each teacher more effective in protecting his/her class, without requiring large new investments of materials and time, but still improving outcomes during practices for emergencies and during real events. The ideas are presented in a straight forward, convenient manner so no one is overwhelmed with acronyms and complicated concepts. These are the basics that work for everyone, no matter what their level of previous emergency experience.

### Middle School & Junior High Schools Teachers

Middle schools and junior High Schools require movement of students to different classes throughout the day, making the continuing integration of safety and emergency awareness more challenging for each teacher.

This guide provides individual classroom suggestion but also whole-school activities that ensure a wider opportunity for the entire school community, including parents, to participate in the process of readiness. The ideas build on those initiated in the lower grades, but increase in detail and sophistication, while ensuring methods for attracting interest in an age group famous for reduced attention time frames.

### High Schools Teachers

High schools begin an earnest process of variety in topic areas and curriculums. Even the use of home room settings for safety and emergency briefings is no longer a consistent practice. This unique and more complex guide provides a revolutionary approach for integrating safety and emergency messages directly into the curriculum of the most common topic areas, from geometry to music, and even shop classes.

This is a breakthrough approach to build skills that continue into adulthood for protection of the students' families, or in their chosen professions after graduation. It builds a continuum of safety for a more resilient community.

### A Great Starting Point

"Ten Tips for Teachers for Safer Schools Series is a great starting point for incorporating a culture of school preparedness..."~ Elizabeth Davis, Brooklyn, NY

<http://www.safetolearn.com/a-great-starting-point.html>



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## About Rick Tobin

Rick Tobin is the President of TAO Emergency Management Consulting. He is a seasoned emergency management consultant with over 39 years of experience specializing in emergency readiness for schools, government and business. He also serves non-profits in their efforts to prepare for emergencies, disasters and catastrophes.

During his career he has been a professional high school teacher, an instructor for the Department of Defense, and trained thousands of professionals to respond and recover from emergencies, including teaching business continuity at the Sacramento State University in California.

He is well known for his quality products in the emergency field and his intense advocacy for the most underserved populations: children, the elderly, the special needs community and animals—including pets, livestock and beasts of the wild. His work has led him throughout the United States. He has direct experience in ambulance service, search-and-rescue, a Women's Crisis Center and as a volunteer in river flood fights. He was also an elected official while living in California with the responsibility for federal disaster recovery funding for damaged roadways.

From 2012-2014 Rick Tobin served as the first and sole Emergency Management Coordinator for the Alamo Community Colleges District in San Antonio, Texas. Its 4,200 employees serve some 62,000 students through six major campuses and a dozen satellite centers in adjacent counties. He rebuilt the existing program while there and received the employee of the month award in both 2013 and 2014. Since then, Rick has focused his efforts on continuing outreach to K-12 school systems as a consultant specializing in emergency awareness and resiliency. This reflects his work in the past as a co-chair on the ASTM Committee developing national emergency standards for K-12 schools.

His background information and many professional recommendations can also be found at LinkedIn.



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## Contact

Author Rick Tobin

LinkedIn

### Recent Interviews with Rick Tobin Include:

Business Innovators Radio by Donna Gunter with Rick Tobin on  
<http://businessinnovatorsmagazine.com/rick-tobin-school-safety-expert/>

Link to YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgKMk1yQcdA>

WebWire Press release – Interview with Rick Tobin  
New School Safety Guides: It's Exciting – July 2015

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Publisher – Dee Beaugez

*Ten Tips for Safer Schools for Teachers (3 book series)* by Rick Tobin  
Published by Visual Imagry, Inc. and Distributed as a Safe to Learn Community Project

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