

# Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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## Special Emergency Response Exercise

Dear Area Residents,

I am writing to tell you about an emergency response exercise that will take place on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at Folwell Middle School, 3611 20th Ave S. The exercise is designed to test and improve Minneapolis' response to a crisis situation in one of our schools. The fictional exercise simulates a mock school attack. Emergency responders will simulate crime scenes and will be treating volunteers who are pretending to be victims. Although the attack is not real, the response will be as realistic as possible. All emergency responders, including police, fire, and EMS, will be responding as though there are real victims and that a real crime is taking place. Area hospitals, city and county police, fire and emergency teams, state and local officials, other government agencies, and private sector partners will also be participating.

You can expect to hear loud noises, yelling, screaming, and simulated gun shots during the exercise. We are limiting the use of sirens by first responders who are participating; however, some of the responders will have to respond to actual emergencies and may have to leave the exercise with their emergency lights and sirens on. We are using adult and teenagers as role players in the exercise and you may see some of those actors in makeup that simulates injuries. Please remember that this is a training exercise and all participants have volunteered, with their parent's consent, to help us train.

The areas where the exercise will take place will be clearly marked starting the morning of August 11, 2010, but we want to make sure all area residents know about the exercise in advance and we ask for your patience and support if the exercise disrupts your daily routine. All the streets surrounding the school will be blocked off for vehicle and pedestrian traffic for the safety of our role players and the participants in the exercise. Due to the confined area available around the school, parking will be difficult on nearby streets. The exercise will start at 8 am and be completed by 4 pm. After all the equipment is moved out of the streets, they will be opened up to normal traffic. The exercise will be filmed as training for all the agencies involved, so you will see cameras inside the zone.

The goal of this exercise is to help the Minneapolis Public School System prepare in case any type of event occurs at a school and to create working partnerships with all first responders and the school district. This is the first exercise the Minneapolis Public Schools has participated in to prepare for any emergency situation with first responders.

There are simple steps you can take to prepare yourself and loved ones for a real event: make a first aid kit, make a plan, and get informed. By gathering supplies to meet basic needs, discussing what to do in advance of an emergency, and being aware of risks and appropriate actions, you will be better prepared for the unexpected and, ultimately, will help better prepare us all. Please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) or call 1-800-BE-READY to learn more about preparedness activities.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this important exercise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Quincy'.

Do you have questions? Contact:

Karen Notsch, Crime Prevention Specialist  
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(612) 673-2856

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