

SAFETY ALERT

No. 03-06

SCHOOLS AS POTENTIAL TARGETS OF TERRORISM

March 2003

Homeland Security authorities have identified schools as potential targets of terrorism; including the use of car bombs, site localized bombs, or the contamination of air handling units or food supplies. In response to this threat, the following security procedures are recommended:

- Issue parking placards to identify student and staff vehicles. Report unauthorized or suspicious vehicles to school police at 213-625-6631.
- All employees and contractors should wear ID badges.
- Report unfamiliar people loitering, or taking an unusual interest in school procedures or property.
- Secure perimeter fences, gates, and doors and admit persons through a monitored entrance.
- Restrict access to utilities, boilers, HVAC systems and chemical storage areas.
- Familiarize staff with the emergency shut down procedures for air handling units, natural gas or fuel supply lines, and electricity.
- Increase security precautions for food shipments, storage, and processing.
- Review attendance records and confer with Nursing Services on apparent abnormal absenteeism.
- Report anonymous phone calls or email threats to School Police.

Inquiries may be directed to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) at (213) 743-5086.