

Red Clay First District in County with “Panic Button”

In cooperation with the New Castle County Department of Public Safety, Red Clay is the first school district in the county to fully implement the Rave Panic Button in all of its school buildings.

Read More

Rave Panic Button is a service provided to public, private and non-profit organizations at no cost by New Castle County. It uses technology to connect staff members of participating facilities with the 9-1-1 Center through a smartphone app during emergency incidents, speeding up information sharing and quickening response times.

“We must use the latest and greatest tools to keep our kids and communities safe,” said New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer. “This is an example of our commitment to information technology that will save lives.”

Participating organizations register with the Rave Panic Button program through New Castle County by entering information about their facilities, including floor plans, staff names and contact information, which becomes accessible to first responders during an emergency. Additionally, authorized staff from a participating facility download the Rave Panic Button app to their smartphones. When the Rave Panic Button app is activated by a user during a fire or medical emergency or a security incident it automatically dials 911, while simultaneously sending a text alert to other app users within a facility. Its messaging capability also allows the 9-1-1 Center to push out specific information about the threat to facility staff, including potentially lifesaving instructions in active shooter situations.

“The safety of our 18,000 students and 2,300 staff members has to be our number one priority, and we have invested considerable time and resources to make sure our facilities are secure and to rehearse safety drills in all schools to prepare for unforeseen threats,” said Red Clay Superintendent Merv Daugherty. “The more you plan, the better you’re prepared and the Rave Panic Button is a valuable tool we are using to prepare for medical incidents, security threats and all kinds of emergencies in our school buildings. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with New Castle County to implement this program districtwide.”

Since its launch in November 2016, 148 facilities across New Castle County have deployed this technology, and nearly 1,000 individuals who work in those facilities have downloaded the app to their smartphones. Program recruitment efforts have initially focused on schools; however, any business, healthcare, government or school facility that has large numbers of staff or is a public gathering place is encouraged to participate in the program.

“The solution instantly dials 9-1-1 while immediately alerting on-site personnel of the emergency while opening up a communication channel between responders and others involved in the incident,” said New Castle County Emergency Communications Chief Jeffrey Miller. “Rave Panic Button allows our response teams to save precious minutes, which can be the difference between life and death. It enables us to better protect our community across the spectrum of emergency types and is an invaluable augmentation to our capabilities.”

Learn more about the Rave Panic Button by visiting www.ravepanicbutton.com. Organizations, schools and businesses that are interested in participating in the Rave Panic Button emergency response program should contact New Castle County by calling 302-395-2700 or sending an e-mail to panicbutton@nccde.org.