Our nation has recently experienced a number of tragic events, which have prompted questions and concern about the safety of Kentucky’s communities. As a result, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security recently launched a new 911 training course for K-12 school officials, law enforcement personnel and school staff. The workshops, which were made possible through a partnership with the Secret Service and Department of Education and a grant from the United States Department of Justice, were designed to provide networking opportunities to the participants that will help them to work together to make Kentucky’s schools safer.

“The Secret Service and Department of Education have prioritized the need for high-level professional development on threat assessment,” said John Akers, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for School Safety.

“I think this workshop has brought awareness to some of the most critical asset—our children.”
NEW TECHNOLOGY CREATING A SAFER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE STATE

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security has partnered with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement to strengthen security on Kentucky’s roadways. Each day, thousands of semi-trucks roll through Kentucky carrying freight to destinations throughout the nation. They travel interstate highways that cross over one-third of the state’s counties, and because of location and a number of other factors, Kentucky’s transportation system is a target, making the security of Kentucky’s highways a critical issue.

Governor Steve Beshear and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers unveiled the new technology at the Letcher County weigh station, the system, called Integrated Safety and Security Enforcement System (ISSES), includes a radiation detection system, a license plate reader, infrared brake monitoring systems, a radiation detection system, and a chemical detection system. These systems are designed to help detect illegal narcotics that are being smuggled through the interstate transportation system.

“New technology is working to keep Kentucky’s communities and roadways safe,” said Governor Beshear. “These new tools will help us to better protect our state against the threats we face. As part of our continuous effort to provide a safe and reliable transportation system that will strengthen our state’s economy, we are pleased to demonstrate this improved, highly-advanced weigh station that will strengthen the security of Kentucky’s highways.”

Preparation continues as mobile teams work to ensure all Kentuckians understand the importance of making a kit and having a plan.

PREPARING FIRST RESPONDERS

MAJOR INTEROPERABILITY PROJECT WORKING TO CONNECT KENTUCKY’S FIRST RESPONDERS

Kentucky was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as one of only two states in the country to take part in a pilot project which will provide a statewide strategy to implement voice interoperability throughout the commonwealth. The project, which is expected to save the state millions of dollars, is being conducted by SAFECOM, which is managed by the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) for Interoperability and Compatibility (RIC). SAFECOM, a communications program of OHS, provides guidelines and assistance for local, state, and federal public agencies working to improve the efficiency and quality of their communications.

SAFECOM representatives are currently meeting with local officials throughout the state to gather information and establish key relationships. These meetings will allow the group to create a project plan that will provide a statewide communications interoperability strategy plan.

“This project is driven by community leaders — the men and women who use communications equipment on a daily basis. They also underscore SAFECOM’s commitment to improving public safety and women who use communications equipment on a daily basis. “This pilot will be driven by the practitioner community — the men and women who use communications equipment on a daily basis. They also underscore SAFECOM’s commitment to improving public safety response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications.

SAFECOM is a communications program of OHS, provides guidelines and assistance for local, state, and federal public agencies working to improve the efficiency and quality of their communications.

The upcoming public awareness campaign will work to ensure all Kentuckians understand the importance of making a kit and having a plan.