

The background is a dark blue gradient with several horizontal glowing cyan lines. A faint, stylized figure of a person is visible in the background, appearing to be in motion or falling. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and high-tech.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment

AN INTRODUCTION

Background

- The NESD and community partners are committed to making our schools and communities safe.
- Schools will respond to student behaviours that may pose a potential risk for violence to students, staff and members of the community.
- The goal in supporting intervention measures is to strive to prevent and reduce school violence and to promote community safety.

Background

- On December 17, 2018, the NESD signed an official Protocol with the Ministry of Justice, Corrections and Policing; the Ministry of Social Services, Child and Family Services; the RCMP; the Saskatchewan Health Authority and Cumberland College.
- The overriding goal is risk reduction and violence prevention.

School Violence-Threat Assessment Team (TAT)

- The School TAT will consist of principal, vice-principal, school counselor, teacher and an assigned RCMP member.
- The School team will assess whether a risk to student/staff safety still exists and develop an intervention plan to support student(s) involved, the greater student body, staff and the community.

Community Threat Assessment Team (TAT)

- When a School TAT has determined that a student poses a medium or high level of concern to student/staff safety, the principal will call Central Office to request that the Community TAT be activated.
- The Community TAT will consist of the School team members as well as designated Division Office staff and appropriate community partners.

VTRA Overview

- Threat Assessment is the process of determining if a threat-maker actually poses a risk to a target or targets they have threatened.
- Many individuals engage in threat-making behaviour, but fortunately few pose a real **Risk**.
- Of utmost importance is *to not under-react* to what could be a real and imminent threat. Hence, the importance of a **team** based approach.

Overview

- The Canadian Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response (CCTRA) utilizes a four step approach to Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA):
 - Identification of worrisome or threatening behaviour;
 - Use of a multi-disciplinary team to conduct violence threat risk assessment;
 - Determining if a threat-maker poses a risk;
 - Intervening appropriately.

Overview

- The VTRA process does not use a profile to identify a person who may be on the pathway to violence.
- Only if the behaviour is deemed high risk and uncharacteristic of baseline behaviour should the school TAT initiate the Stage 1 VTRA process.

What Is a Threat?

- A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- A threat may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on-line or made by gesture.

Key Factors in Threat Assessment

- Is the threat “clear, direct and plausible” ?
 - The more detail contained in a threat, the more thought that has gone into the planning
- An absence of specific details may indicate that little thought has gone into the threat and it indicates a lack of commitment
- ***VTRA works from the leading hypothesis that most threats are a cry for help***

Duty to Report

- To keep our schools safe, staff, parents/guardians/care-givers, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours to the principal or vice principal of their school.

Duty to Respond

- All threats will be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to in an appropriate manner.
- The threat assessment process assists school division staff in determining appropriate intervention strategies to assist students and promote safety.

What Students Need to Know

- Any threat must be reported to your school administration
- Investigations may involve the school or community threat assessment team, the police and/or other agencies
- Investigations may involve locker and personal property searches including a students' social media footprint
- Interviews will be held with the threat-maker, other students, and adults who may have information to share
- Threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action and outside agency involvement including the RCMP
- An intervention plan may be developed for the threat-maker and supports provided for the individuals targeted by the threat

Location of Resources - Public

- Public Information can be found on the NESD webpage
 - <https://www.nesd.ca/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Follow the Quick Link to *Safe and Caring Schools*
 - Emergency Measures – Tragic Events Response
 - VTRA Community Protocol
 - VTRA School VTRA Handbook
 - VTRA Fair Notice Letter
 - VTRA Informational Poster