

The 2018 Florida Legislature (via SB 7026) appropriated funds for the Department of Legal Affairs and Florida Department of Law enforcement (FDLE) to procure a mobile suspicious activity reporting tool to “allow students and the community to relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to appropriate public safety agencies and school officials”.

The result of this directive is the FortifyFL application, accessible via mobile devices or an online web portal, which allows users to submit anonymous tips regarding school safety. Each tip, related to a specific school or county, will immediately be sent to the appropriate entities. Once received, each tip must be acknowledged by law enforcement via the FortifyFL online portal. Further processing of the tip will be guided by the nature of the potential threat and according to local policies and procedures.

Acknowledgement by law enforcement agencies is required to assure all tips are received appropriately. If not acknowledged within a specified timeframe, additional notifications, including emails, text messages and automated voice calls will continue until the tip is acknowledged (Examples are provided in this communication). Training on the app will be provided prior to its release to the public.

FDLE recognizes that law enforcement agencies may handle school safety tips differently and may have policies/procedures in place that dictate how you respond to tips and how you interact with other responders. FortifyFL is designed to augment the delivery of tips. It is NOT intended in any way to dictate, direct or influence how a jurisdiction responds. The app has been designed to give maximum flexibility and autonomy to law enforcement and school/district administration.

The following is the typical FortifyFL alerting pattern for a **school specific tip**:

- 1) A tip, related to a specific school, is sent using the FortifyFL app.
- 2) The following entities are notified of the tip:
  - a. Local Law enforcement Tip Recipients (as defined by law enforcement agency administration);
  - b. School Principal;
  - c. School District Police Department (if applicable);
  - d. District School Safety Specialist;
  - e. DOE Office of Safe Schools;
  - f. FDLE Office of Statewide Intelligence;
  - g. School Threat Assessment Team (as defined by the school principal); and
  - h. Dispatch Center(s) (as defined by law enforcement agency administration).
- 3) A Law enforcement Tip Recipient will:

- a. Acknowledge the tip;
  - b. Review it for immediacy of threat; and
  - c. Distribute/respond according to local policies/procedures.
- 4) In the event that a Law enforcement recipient does not acknowledge the tip within 30 minutes, a secondary notification will be sent to Law enforcement recipients.
- 5) In the event that a Law enforcement recipient has not acknowledged the tip within 15 minutes of the secondary notification, a third notification will be sent to Law enforcement recipients.
- 6) In the unlikely event that a Law enforcement recipient has still not acknowledged the tip after an additional 15 minutes, Law enforcement recipients will receive the notification again and the identified Dispatch Center serving that specific school will receive email and automated voice notification, if not already receiving them.
- 7) Notifications to Law enforcement recipients will continue every 15 minutes until the tip is acknowledged.

The following is the typical FortifyFL alerting pattern for a **county specific tip**:

- 1) A tip related to a County, not a specific school, is sent using the FortifyFL app.
- 2) The following entities are notified of the tip:
  - a. County Sheriff's Office dispatch center (defined by law enforcement agency administration);
  - b. School District Police Department (if applicable);
  - c. District School Safety Specialist;
  - d. DOE Office of Safe Schools; and
  - e. FDLE Office of Statewide Intelligence.
- 3) The County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center will:
  - a. Receive a notification via automated voice call;
  - b. Acknowledge the tip;
  - c. Review it for immediacy of threat; and
  - d. Distribute/respond according to local policies and procedures.
- 4) If not acknowledged within 30 minutes, notifications to Law enforcement recipients will continue every 15 minutes until the tip is acknowledged.

In this scenario, in which a county, not a specific school, is identified in the tip, the dispatch center(s) in that county will be the only recipient(s) able to acknowledge the tip.