

Active Shooter Incidents

The Communities Response



VampireSquad.com's Community Response Training Initiative

Assembled by C. Mason



Active Shooters

“Within the span of 16 minutes, the gunman killed 13 people and wounded 21 others. A savage act of domestic terrorism, their crime is the deadliest school shooting in the history of the United States”

**Sheriff John P. Stone
Jefferson Co. Colorado**



Training Objectives

- Define the term “active shooter”
- List measures that can be employed to reduce the effectiveness of an active shooter
- Describe actions that can be expected from responding law enforcement officers

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Active Shooter Defined

- A suspect or assailant whose activity is immediately causing death and serious injury
- Threat is not contained and there is immediate risk of death and injury

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Mentality of Active Shooter

- Desire is to kill and seriously injure without concern for his safety or threat of capture
- Normally has intended victims and will search them out
- Accepts targets of opportunity while searching for or after finding intended victims
- Will continue to move throughout building/area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention



Active Shooter

- Considered the greatest terrorist threat on campuses
- Nationally accepted law enforcement response plans
- You need to be informed of law enforcement's response plan so you can take protective measures



Active Shooter's Intent is to Kill and Injure

- This necessitated a change in tactics by law enforcement
- Losses can be mitigated with community preparedness training and response during actual event

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History

- **Lessons learned from Columbine and Virginia Tech.**

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Grade Schools vs. Colleges

- Unlike the middle/high schools, College facilities do not feature:
 - Intercoms in classrooms
 - Immediate campus-wide emergency notification system to initiate Campus Lockdown Procedures
 - One centralized administrative office
 - Visitor access points
 - Monitoring and control of students and other people on campus
 - Dense campus facility make-up



Most Major College Campuses

Features:

- Strong law enforcement presence and response capability
- Dedicated and concerned community base
- Multiple means for reporting emergencies and alerting the community to an emergency
- Solidly constructed facilities
 - Places of refuge
 - Multiple escape routes



Building Coordinator Responsibility

- Dissemination of emergency messages and needs to building staff and occupants
 - Email
 - Phone tree
 - Paging, etc.
- Encourage Deans, Directors, and/or Department Chairs to bring training to individual departments for all staff.



Your Response

- Your actions will influence others
 - Stay calm
 - Assure others that you and the police are working to protect them

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Your Response

- Secure the immediate area – whether classroom, bathroom, or office.
 - Lock the door. This may require advance planning to ensure ability to lock the door – key and type of lock.
 - Most doors in the university buildings are solid core, and many walls are block and brick. This may provide some protection.
 - Block the door using whatever is available – desks, file cabinets, books, other furniture...
 - If the shooter enters your room and leaves, lock/barricade the door behind him.
 - If able to do so safely, allow others to seek refuge with you.



Your Response

- Un-securing the area
- The shooter will not stop until his/her objectives have been met, unless engaged by law enforcement
- Consider the risk exposure created by opening the door
- Attempts to rescue people should only be made if that can be done without further endangering the persons inside a secured area
- The shooter may bang on the door and yell for help to entice you to open the door
- Remember the safety of the masses versus the safety of a few
- If there is any doubt to the safety of the individuals inside the room, the area needs to remain secured



Your Response

- Doors, Windows, Openings, and Noise
 - Close blinds
 - Block windows
 - Turn off radios and computer monitors if necessary
 - Silence cell phones
 - Signs can be placed in the interior doors, windows, but remember the shooter can see these
 - Place signs in the exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons
 - Keep occupants calm and quiet
 - After securing the room; people should be positioned out of sight and behind items that might offer additional protection – walls, desks, file cabinets, etc.



Your Response

- **Treat the injured**
- **Remember basic first aid**
- **For bleeding apply pressure and elevate**
- **Be creative in identifying items to use for this purpose - clothing, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, news papers, etc.**



Contacting Emergency Personnel

- 911
- Keep in mind that emergency circuits may be overwhelmed
 - Busy signal
 - Multiple rings



What to Report

- **Your specific location**
 - Building name
 - Office/classroom number
- **Number of people at your specific location**
- **Injuries**
 - Number of people injured
 - Types of injuries
 - Dispatcher may provide instructions on how to care for injured until medical assistance can be provided



What to Report

– Assailant(s)

- Specific location
- Number of assailant(s)
- Race and Gender
- Clothing color and style
- Physical features – height, weight, facial hair, glasses
- Type of weapons (rifle/shotgun, handgun)
- Backpack
- Do you recognize the shooter? What's his name?
- Have you heard explosions separate from gunshots?



Unsecured areas

- If you find yourself in an open area, immediately seek protection
- Put something between you and the shooter
- Is escape your best option? Do you know where the shooter is? Is escape immediately available?
- If in doubt find a safe area and secure it the best way you can



Law Enforcement Response

- Law enforcement will immediately respond to the area.
- It is important for you to convey to others that help is on the way. Remain inside the secure area.
- Law Enforcement's goal is to locate, contain, and stop the shooter.
- The safest place for you to be is inside a secure room
- The shooter will not flee when law enforcement enters the building, instead they will have new targets to shoot.
- Remember the shooter's mindset is not escape. Their goal is to kill and injure.



Law Enforcement Response

- **Injured persons**

- Initial responding officers will not treat the injured or begin evacuation until the threat is neutralized
- You may need to explain this to others in an attempt to calm them
- Once the shooter is contained, officers will begin treatment and evacuation

- **Evacuation**

- Safety corridors will be established. This may be time consuming
- Remain in secure areas until instructed otherwise
- You may be instructed to keep your hands on your head
- You may be searched
- You will be escorted out of the building by law enforcement personnel



The Investigation

- Information will be released to the community and media as quickly as possible
- The entire area will be treated as a crime scene
- Once you have been evacuated you will not be permitted to retrieve items or access the crime scene
- After evacuation you will be taken to a holding area for medical care, interviewing, counseling, etc.



Summary

- Active Shooter
- You should take a leadership role
- Seek secure area
- Calm, reassure, and quiet others
- Report the incident
- Treat injured
- Law enforcement response
 - Objective is to neutralize threat
 - Evacuation
 - Follow up medical care, interview, counseling
 - Investigation



Closing Statement

- Historical perspectives of shooters on campuses:
 - **Spill-over crime** – suspect flees onto campus from off-campus incident.
Ex. Wachovia bank robbery and recent K-mart shooting.
 - **Workplace Violence**
 - Disgruntled employee or estranged husband/boyfriend
 - Middle aged Caucasian man
 - Poor social skills
 - Recent personnel Action
 - Gun collector, hunter
 - **Early School Shootings**
 - Student
 - Misfit
 - Difficulty coping with losses & failures
 - Bullied or teased
 - Vendetta

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Closing Statement

- We can no longer predict the origin of the next threat
- Assailants in some recent incidents across the country were not students or employees
- There were no obvious specific targets and the victims were unaware they were targets, until attacked



Discussion and Questions

- What if...



Source

- Report of the Review Panel. *Mass Shootings at Virginia Tech Presented to Governor Kaine*. August 2007. March 6, 2008.

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/TempContent/techPanelReport.cfm>.

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