

How Can Civilians React to and Survive an Active Shooter Event?

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My Biography:

- 15 years Served as a Volunteer/Paid Firefighter, Instructor, Paramedic, Bomb and Arson Investigator, EMS Lieutenant, Hazardous Materials Technician, Confined Space Rescue Technician, Urban Search and Rescue Technician, and WMD Specialist.
- 24 Years in Law Enforcement Serving in the positions of Patrol Officer, Detective, Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, SWAT Team Leader, Master Sniper/Observer, Non Lethal Instructor, School Resource Officer, Indiana Law Enforcement Instructor.
- Founding member of N.W.I.A.S.I. Northwest Indiana Active Shooter Initiative.
- SRO for a High School with over 3500 Students and Staff
- Instructor for Active Shooter in the A.L.E.R.RT, L.A.S.E.R, and Quad/Diamond systems.

Training Objectives

- Discuss history of active shooting incidents
- Define the following: what is an 'active shooter'?
- Steps that will increase surviving an active shooter incident.
- Discuss strategies for prevention.



History

- July 26, 1764 - Four Lenape Indian Warriors entered a schoolhouse in Pennsylvania and killed a school master and 9 students
- 1966 – University of Texas 16 killed 31 wounded

Bath School Disaster

- Bath Township, Michigan
- May 18, 1927
- School bombing – use of dynamite, pyrotol, firebombs and Winchester model 54 rifle
- Deaths: 45; 44 at school and wife at home. 36 were school children and two teachers.
- Injured: 58
- Andrew Kehoe

Sandy Hook Elementary

- Sandy Hook, Connecticut
- December 14, 2012
- School shooting, murder-suicide
- Bushmaster XM15, Glock 20SF and Sig Sauer P226
- Deaths: 28; 27 at school plus mother
- Injured: 2
- Adam Lanza

Colombine Shooting

“Within the span of 16 minutes, the gunmen 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

...until Virginia Tech...

- Seung Hui Cho's shooting spree in Norris Hall, which lasted 11 minutes.
- He fired 174 rounds and killed 30 people in Norris Hall plus himself and wounded 17.



Recent 2018 Stats

- 27 Active Shooter events reported to the FBI through the Uniform Crime Report.
- 23 Male, 3 Female, 1 Unknown at large
- **9 Resulted in Exchange of gunfire with law enforcement.**
- **85 Killed 128 wounded**
- **2019 Through JULY 248 INCIDENTS, 246 DEAD, 979 WOUNDED 2 SCHOOLS 1 HOUSE OF WORSHIP.**
- **Body count – “Active Shooters” goal**

- 5 active shooters a year between 2000 and 2008.
- Over the last 4 years, the number of people shot and killed in these incidents is up nearly 150 percent.
- Many police departments have abandoned the contain-and-wait strategy in favor of a more aggressive response that calls for the first officers on the scene to attempt to engage the shooter instead of waiting for the SWAT team to arrive. “Rapid Deployment”

The Active Shooter Defined

- An “Active Shooter” is an individual engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, in most cases, active shooters use firearms.



Active Shooter

- Considered the greatest threat on campuses and private business.
- Need a survival mindset and course of action
- You need to be informed of law enforcement's plan so you can take protective measures



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

Mentality of Active Shooter Continued

- Active Shooter's intent is to kill and injure
- This necessitated a change in tactics by law enforcement
- Losses can be mitigated with a survival mindset comprised of three components:
 - Awareness
 - Preparation
 - Rehearsal
- Bottom line: YOU need to take direct responsibility for your personal safety and security. Nobody can save you...but YOU!

Survival Mindset

Awareness

- Gain a basic understanding of situation
- Become attuned to work environment
- Predetermined mindset will help you take rapid, effective actions

Survival Mindset

Preparation

- Looking at your work environment through the lens of survival
- “What if” questions are critical in developing effective response strategies
- Survivors prepare themselves both mentally and emotionally to do whatever it takes to survive

Survival Mindset

Rehearsal

- Mentally or physically practicing your plan which will reduce response time and build confidence
- A survival inoculation

Course of Action

- Get out, if safe, is there a path of escape, where is it?
- Move quickly; don't wait for others to validate your decision. Hesitation will get you killed.
- Leave belongings behind, is something really worth your life?
- Survival chances increase if you are not where shooter is or to go where he can't see you. Move to or make a safe shelter.

Course of Action

- *If you can't get out* secure the immediate area “hide out”
 - whether classroom, office, storage room, or bathroom
 - Lock the door “keep out”. This may require advanced planning to ensure ability to lock the door – key and type of lock
 - Most doors in commercial and school buildings are solid core, and many walls are block and brick. This may provide some protection
 - Block/barricade 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 safety allow others to seek refuge with you
 - If two or more of you, DO NOT huddle together

Course of Action

DOORS, WINDOWS, OPENINGS, and NOISE

- Close blinds
- Block windows
- Turn off electronics (TV, radio, etc)
- Dim or face computer monitors away from windows or doors
- Silence cell phones (put on vibrate)
- Place signs in 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.
- Stay low- reduce your profile
- Remain calm – it can have a contagious effect on others
- Keep others focused on survival, come up with a plan should your space become compromised.

Course of Action

- You must assume the shooter's intentions are lethal.
- If there is no other option "take out" the shooter, this is a last resort. Use whatever force you need! You must be prepared to do whatever is necessary to neutralize the threat.
- You'll need to become more aggressive than you ever thought possible.
- Develop a survival mindset that you have "what it takes" to survive when your life is on the line

Your Response

Un-securing an area

- The shooter will not stop until his objectives have been met, unless engaged by law enforcement or others
- 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
- During the Virginia Tech shootings people who did take refuge in locked rooms were badly frightened by gunfire and the general commotion, but all of them survived.

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?
- Do you know your building plans? Points of Egress?
- If in doubt find a safe area and secure it the best way you can

Contacting Emergency Personnel

- Emergency 911

911 may be overwhelmed

- Busy signal
- Multiple rings
- Use a hard line phone, cell phone towers may be jammed or you risk the loss of connection.

What to Report

- Your specific location
 - Building name
 - Office/classroom number
- . Number of people at your specific location
- . Injuries
 - Number of people injured
 - Type of injuries

C.A.N. Report

What to Report

Assailant's:

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

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.



What if you are armed?

- Make sure that you are properly licensed and trained if you carry a firearm.
PRACTICE!!!!
- Hold the ground you have: Don't go looking for the shooter, protect the ones with you. Let the shooter come to you!
- When you encounter law enforcement make sure your weapon is no where near your reach and follow instructions.

What if my Employer Forbids weapons?

- Many tools can be used as improvised weapons if there is no other choice but defense.
- Fire extinguishers make an excellent weapon and distraction device.
- Hammers, Sports Equipment, bricks, etc make excellent impact weapons, wasp spray!
- **DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO DO TO SURVIVE!!**

Law Enforcement Objective

- Law enforcement will immediately respond to the area
- Law enforcement's goal is to locate, contain, and stop the shooter. "Stop the killing, Stop the Dying!"
- The safest place for you to be is inside a secure room
- The shooter will generally not flee when law enforcement enters the building, instead he will have additional targets to shoot
- Remember the shooter's mindset is not escape. His goal is to kill and injure



Law Enforcement Responders

- When law enforcement officers enter the room, do not present a threat to them
- Do not point at them or the shooter
- Do not make quick movements
- Do not run towards them or attempt to hug them
- Do not scream or yell

Law Enforcement Response

Evacuation

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



Injured persons

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

The Investigation

- Information will be released to community and media as quickly as possible. Please allow the police to do this as to eliminate rumors.
- 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.

Prevention

- Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to advancing the attack.
- In over half of the incidents, the attacker had selected at least one administrator, or staff member as a target.
 - In nearly half of the incidents, the attackers were known to have chosen more than one target prior to the attack.

- Most attackers had a grievance against at least one of their targets prior to the attack.
- In almost half of the incidents, individuals who were targeted prior to the attack also became victims.

- There is no accurate or useful profile of individuals who engaged in targeted attacks.
 - Came from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds
 - 63% came from two-parent families
 - Work performance ranged from excellent to failing
 - Friendship patterns from very popular to socially isolated

- Few attackers showed any marked change in work performance, friendship status, interest in work or disciplinary problems prior to attack.
- Most attackers had no history of prior violent or criminal behavior.



- Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted, or injured by others prior to the attack.
- Most attackers had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack. They have practiced and rehearsed just like police do.

- DESPITE PROMPT LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES, MOST ATTACKS WERE STOPPED BY MEANS OTHER THAN LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION AND MOST WERE BRIEF IN DURATION.

Summary

- Mass Shootings are no longer confined to schools they can happen anywhere at any time.
- 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.

Summary

Active Shooter

- You should take a leadership role
- “Get out”
- “Hide out” seek secure area
- Calm, reassure, and quiet others
- Report the incident
- Treat injured
- “Keep out”
- “Take out”

Law enforcement response

- Objective is to neutralize threat
- Evacuation
- Follow up medical care, interview, counseling
- Investigation



Discussion and Questions

- What if...



RETIRING SUMMER 2020

I'll need a "real" job!!

- LOOKING FOR MY NEXT BIG ADVENTURE!!

- HIRE ME!!

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- THANK YOU, STAY SAFE!!!