True First Responder Training for Students

Presented By

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Objectives

♦ Develop necessary skills for increasing the chance of survival in an active shooter/killer situation

♦ Identify actions students and staff took during high profile school shootings that led to their survival and those tactics that led to their deaths!

♦ Dispel school shootings myths in order to provide realistic training and develop realistic lockdown plans.

♦ Participants will openly discuss our past non-realistic practices and become forward thinkers in the arena of school safety!
The True First Responders

♦ For decades L.E. has trained others what to do during a crisis but there really hasn’t been any training that educates the true first responders to help themselves.

♦ For those of us in the law enforcement field we know what crisis reality will do to plans that have only been discussed or not practiced…Crisis will take more lives!

♦ The field of Education needs to develop and implement Lockdown plans and provide reality training to students, staff & parents.

♦ Law Enforcement and Fire Personnel should be referred to as Emergency Responders.
Active Killer Definition

♦ An Active Killer incident is any situation where the suspect(s), or Active Killer(s), has entered any work place, school or other facility or institution and is, with intent, actively attempting to cause death by whatever means available, to the occupants present, other than a firearm. Means to kill can include but is not limited to the use of energetic materials such as bombs, IED’s, etc..., edged weapons, arson, blunt weapons, explosive gases, liquids, electrical devices or energy, or any other items used by the Active Killer with the intent to cause death. This type of situation dictates an immediate and possibly lethal response, by law enforcement personnel to either contain, capture or neutralize the Active Killer threat.
When do school shootings usually occur?

- During passing periods
- Lunchtimes
- Before school as students gather
- After school as students gather
- School shootings don’t usually occur during classroom time
Lockdown: What Is Its Purpose?

The purpose of a Lockdown is to secure staff, students, and visitors into the nearest secured facility or room to minimize their exposure to a potential threat and/or to allow them other survivable options such as evacuation, hiding, running, crawling, playing dead, the power of your voice or fighting for their life if necessary, during a potentially lethal threat situation. The Lockdown plan, when implemented, serves to minimize the risk of injury or death to students, staff, faculty and any visitors who are on campus at the time of the threat.
Lockdown

Evacuation

And

Survival

Tactics
Lockdown

♦ The #1 life saving response in an Active Shooter/Killer event
  – The shooter can only be at one location when the shooting starts
  – The sooner the lockdown the more lives will be saved
  – No shooter to date has breached a locked door!
  – Florida’s lockdown plan was not a failure
Staff responsibilities during a Lockdown

♦ Step out of your offices/classrooms and into the hallways to gather students/staff/faculty/visitors
  – If safe to do so/Virginia Tech Professor
    • Inside door locks are critical!
♦ Direct people into your offices as you are locking the door to stay with your students!
♦ Shut the door and cover the door window(s) if you have one
♦ Cover or close all exterior windows
  – Some have a different philosophy about this
  – Secret Service/DOE Safe Schools Initiative
Staff responsibilities during a Lockdown

♦ Get everyone in the room to the door wall side sitting or lying down
  – VT students who barricaded
  – Prepares you to fight closer to the suspect should they breach the door

♦ Lights on or off...your choice

♦ Keep everyone quiet!

♦ Who secures the building doors?
  – Staff nearest the door
  – Custodian

♦ Think about your Plan B!
The Power of Your Voice!
Before the Event

♦ Rarely talked about during training for students, faculty and staff

♦ Not only during the violent event but before it
  – 81% of 41 shooters in 37 incidents over a 25 year period told a friend of their intent to commit the act. (Targeted acts)
  – College age shooters do not appear to be following this same trend

♦ Every shooter arrested in a foiled school shooting plot in this country, once arrested and intervention provided, has NOT committed a school shooting!

♦ Students need to be educated and empowered in this area if we are going to stop the next school shooting from occurring!
The Power of Your Voice During the Event

♦ Capable of Involving Speech
♦ Used in Paducah, Kentucky by a student
♦ Used in Moses Lake, WA by a teacher
♦ Marinette, WI. November 2010
♦ Taft, CA. Jan. 2013 H.S. Shooting
♦ If the shooter is talking and not shooting you are having a good day!
♦ Know when to talk and when not to
  – Pierce Transit incident
Reality Check: Running

♦ Moving quickly on foot
♦ Has been used in almost every Active Killer situation by victims
♦ Typically used by those nearest the shooter
♦ Don’t run in a straight line! (Phoebe 😊)
  – Bullets travel in a straight line
♦ Warn others of the impending danger
  – Columbine/NIU/VT
  – The power of the Voice!
  – Robert Licata’s 6 year old son (Sandy Hook Elementary School)
♦ Call 911 when able to do so
Part of your Lockdown plan may also include a partial evacuation of the facility if the threat is a mobile lethal threat.

Those closest to the lethal threat are most likely to utilize evacuating.

Think out of the Lockdown box.

DO NOT TRAIN STUDENTS TO PULL THE FIRE ALARM!
Reality Check: Crawling

- Using your hands and knees, while on the ground, to move in a certain direction
- Used by numerous students in the NIU shooting
- Keeps you low allowing the use of cover as you move
- Greater chance that the shooter will miss
  - Angle shooting
  - Use obstacles
Reality Check: Hiding

- The activity of keeping something secret
- Works better if the bad guy doesn’t see you as you are hiding😊
  - SuccessTech Academy Shooting/Ohio
- Remember that hiding doesn’t mean bulletproof
  - Cover vs. Concealment
- If you choose this option you have to be quiet
NOW, REMEMBER, IF WE HAVE A SHOOTING HERE AT SCHOOL, QUICKLY GET UNDER YOUR DESKS AND DUCK AND COVER...
Duck and Cover?

♦ Taught in the 50’s for earthquakes and the Atomic bomb

♦ Common denominator in death in shooting rampages

♦ People that duck and cover near the shooter are at greater risk of dying

– Where did most of the victims get killed in the Columbine and V.T. massacres?
Duck and Cover?

♦ How many stories at VT of students that went into the duck and cover position?

♦ People that are near the shooter and run stand a greater chance of getting away from the shooter.

♦ Duck, Cover, Assess & Move!
Reality Check: Playing Dead

- Appearing to not be alive
- The most famous story of this technique working was Craig Scott in the library at Columbine High School
- Female student, Emily Haas in V.T. shooting
- "Blondie" Umpqua College Shooting
- No guarantee it will work
- Tough to play dead during a crisis situation
  - Breathing
  - Startle reflex
  - Cho came back into classrooms and shot victims again!
Fighting

♦ Any contest or struggle
♦ Can be used at any time during an Active Killer event
♦ Remember that any two or more people, with the same intent to live, can overpower a suspect if they work together
  – Even better if it’s a larger group!
  – The suspect isn’t expecting anyone to fight him so you have the element of surprise
♦ CHOOSE TO LIVE! It’s the L.E.A.S.T. you can do!
♦ SPU Shooting/Seattle WA 2014
Practice for Crisis Before Crisis Occurs

♦ It is better to have a plan and not need it than to need a plan and not have it

♦ Maximize campus safety by not falling into a complacent mindset or the “I never thought it would happen to me” mentality