

The Unarmed Response to an Active Shooter



Presented by: Dallas Police Department and Willamette ESD

Basis of Information

- Information in this course is based on research and studies conducted by the FBI, Secret Service, and US Department of Homeland Security of previous active shooter incidents.

Objectives

- This course is designed to create awareness and to provide alternatives for surviving an active shooter event
- To change mind sets
- To empower you to act
- Instill confidence that you can survive an armed encounter

What is an Active Shooter?

Department of Homeland
Security definition:

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.

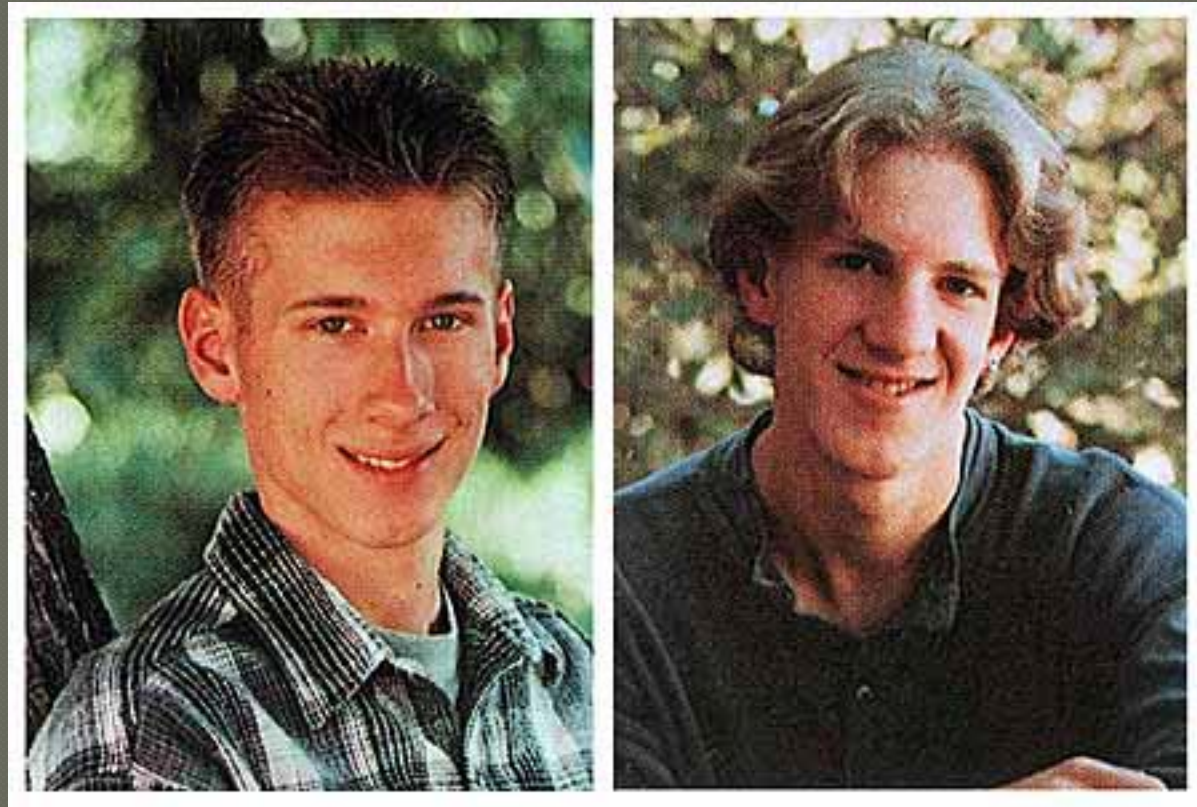
Where do shootings occur?

- Schools
- Work places
- Movie theatres
- Shopping malls
- Court facilities
- Public forums

- **Anywhere, Anytime!**

- **No-one is immune to targeted violence**

Who is the Active Shooter?



Columbine High School, 1999, 13 killed, 21 injured,
suicide

Who is the Active Shooter?



Thurston High School, 1998, 4 killed, 24 injured, subdued by students

Who is the Active Shooter?



Virginia Tech, 2007, 32 killed, 23 injured, suicide

Who is the Active Shooter?



Perry Hall High School, 2012, 1 injured, stopped by school staff.

Who is the Active Shooter?



Deer Creek Middle School, 2010, 2 injured, stopped by school staff.

Who is the Active Shooter?



Clackamas Town Center, 2012, 2 killed, 1 injured, suicide

Who is the Active Shooter?



Sandy Hook Elementary, 2012, 25 killed (at school), 2 injured, suicide

Facts

1. No standard “profile” of an active shooter
2. People don’t “just snap”
3. There is usually some form of leakage
4. School violence is not rampant
 1. School related homicides less than 1% of murdered children in USA
5. “Hollywood” effect of gun fighting is false
6. Man with a gun is NOT “all powerful”

Here's what we know

1. Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to attack.
2. Most attackers had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures. Moreover many had considered or attempted suicide

Here's what we know

3. Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted or injured by others prior to the attack.
4. Most shooting incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement interventions

Here's what we know

5. In many cases, other students were involved in some capacity (Encouraged, filmed, provided assistance)
6. Most attackers engaged in some behavior prior that caused others concern or indicated a need for help.

Here's what we know

7. Most active shooters are un-skilled
8. If determined, they will gain access to building
9. If a person is displaying a gun he is there to KILL! (NOT the time to negotiate!!!!) **Refer to Foot Note**
10. Although your goal is to immediately incapacitate (if gets to that point), injury or death caused to suspect IS justifiable.

Here's what we know

11. The act is COWARDLY
12. Active shooters DO NOT EXPECT RESISTANCE
13. They prey on “easy targets” that are perceived to be unable to protect themselves!

Threat Assessment

○ Types of offenders

- Criminal with no ties to the victims or venue
- People who believe they've been wronged
- Co-workers / Employees
- Domestic violence perpetrators
- Terroristic and hate crime offenders

Threat Assessment

- The commonality in these shooting events is that the perpetrator has chosen to use targeted violence as a means of resolving their problems.

Threat Assessment

- Behaviors of concern
 - Extreme or prolonged sadness (depression)
 - Difficulty coping with loss
 - Emotional outbursts
 - Withdrawal
 - Fascination with weapons / violence
 - Abnormal changes in behavior / mood
 - Threatening statements / behavior
 - Signs of abuse/domestic abuse
 - Inappropriate/Concerning communications – verbal and written (SOCIAL MEDIA!)

Threat Assessment

- Behaviors of concern (cont.)
 - Just because a person exhibits one or more behaviors of concern does NOT mean they will go on a shooting rampage.
 - The signs however, should not be ignored. The time to address the situation is right away.
 - The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior.
 - Reporting the behavior or concerns is good way to begin assessing and mitigating the situation.

Threat Assessment

- Reporting
 - Local law enforcement
 - Managers
 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Parents

Threat Assessment

- Threat Advisory Teams
 - Who are we and what do we do?
 - Polk Adult Threat Advisory Team
 - Sgt. Rob Hatchell – 503-831-3581
 - Student Threat Advisory Team
 - Det. Josh Calef – 503-831-3589
 - Salem-Keizer (Marion) Threat Advisory Team
 - Lt. Dave Okada- 503-588-6123

Mental Mind Set and Preparation

- We need to change the way we think and react; What we currently do **is not working**
- United Flight 93 Mentality
 - Will to fight / survive
 - Armed threats can be defeated
 - While the passengers did not survive, they saved other lives and there has not been another hijacking since in the US.

Mental Mind Set and Preparation

Are you a sheep or a sheepdog?

- Sheep huddle together and go along to get along. This makes them easy targets

DON'T BE A SHEEP!!!

- If you knew you were going to die, would you **fight to survive?**

Sheep or Sheepdogs?



Mental Mind Set and Preparation

- Everyone is capable of violence given the right set of circumstances
 - Mother /child
 - Fear for own life

What would drive you???

Mental Mind Set and Preparation

- Understand people will likely be injured or killed
 - This may be unavoidable, but can be minimized
 - If you are injured, believe you will survive and never give up. The reality is, you probably will survive.
 - Realize some folks will not act and will freeze

Mental Mind Set and Preparation

- If you commit yourself to act, you must act swiftly and decisively.
- Look for opportunities of advantage
 - Reloads, malfunctions, distractions
- **Use of firearms**
 - Just because you carry a firearm does not mean it's the appropriate tool for the job.
 - Must consider training, ability, liability
 - Justification to use force does not protect against reckless acts.

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

- ✓ **Get Out,**
- ✓ **Lock Out,**
- ✓ **Knock Out!**

****Term coined by Basim Abu-Hamid, Pinkerton Investigation Agency****

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

GET OUT

- First priority/option
- Start planning and practicing escape routes
- Evacuate regardless if others follow
- Leave belongings behind
- Help others escape
- Prevent others from entering

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

GET OUT

- Make a hard target while escaping
- Keep hands visible and follow orders of police
- Call 911 when safe to do so
- Teachers and PARENTS can prep students on where to go if they ever have to flee their school
- Better to search for lost child than to look for their body in the aftermath.....

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

LOCK OUT

- Second priority/option
- If you cannot get out then barricade
- Lock doors, windows
- Place anything and everything in front of entry points
- Make it difficult or unlikely suspect will be able to enter room

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

LOCK OUT

- Turn off lights, TV's, radios etc.
- Silence cell phones
- Step up, make hasty plan of attack
- Cover vs. Concealment
- Windows-out of view
- Arm yourselves
- Remain quiet!!

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

How many victims can you see?



Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

LOCK OUT

- What should you arm yourself with??
 - Staplers
 - Chairs
 - Coffee cups
 - Laptop computers
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Most **ANYTHING** will work!!



What weapons or distracting tools are present on this desk??

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

KNOCK OUT

- Last Resort!!! If you are at this point serious injury or death is imminent. Convert your fear to anger!!
- If the shooter is going to gain access to you then ***YOU MUST FIGHT!!!***

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

KNOCK OUT

- Immediately upon entry, attack the shooter to incapacitate...
 - Throw things at their head to distract and hurt them, hit them in the face with a chair, etc.
 - Immediately mob / attack / dog pile immobilize
- Take varied cover positions around the room and entry point and don't be the first thing the shooter sees upon entry.

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

What the shooter should see....



Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

What is actually waiting!!!



Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

Not enough space on both sides of door....?



Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

KNOCK OUT

- Focus on arms (hands will hurt you), control each limb
- Hit, stomp, beat, scratch eyes, whatever you need to do to incapacitate attacker
- If you are alone, the same rules apply. Your primary goal is to escape!

Unarmed Response to Active Shooter

- **NOT TODAY....**
- **NOT ON MY WATCH!!!**

Start planning now!

Set up your work areas now!

Begin mental preparation now!

Other Considerations

- Even if the shooter has been incapacitated help could still be several minutes away.
- Injured victims may need immediate first aid.
- Time is crucial. Victims can bleed to death in minutes.
- Consider adding tourniquets and Quik Clot bandages to first aid kits.
- Maintain your first aid certification.

Other Considerations



Other Considerations



Practical Exercises

Thank You

Questions?