HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE UNTHINKABLE

PREPARATION FOR THE EMERGING SPECTRUM OF ACTIVE THREATS FACED IN SOFT TARGET VENUES
For the next few minutes we will discuss the basics for Active Shooter Survival then move into your specific response on how to make your attendees more secure and each site more secure.
COUNTER MEASURES FOR ACTIVE KILLER SHOOTER

- PREPARE
- PREVENT
- RECOGNIZE
- ACT
Once violence begins, actions with the greatest impact on outcomes will be taken by personnel already on the scene.

Emergency responders are considered as one element of the response plan.
RESPONSE TO ACTIVE KILLERS IS TWO-FOLD

• First, the response consists of the organization’s internal response, if there is no formal security presence and you are the meeting organizer, you become the first line of defense for threats & emergencies.

• Second, The response of law enforcement.
ABOUT ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

- More frequent
- Anger
- Revenge
- Ideology
- Untreated mental illness
CURRENT DEFENSE STRATEGIES

• FEMA’s – Run / Hide / Fight

• ALERRT Center – Avoid / Deny / Defend

• ALICE – Alert / Lockdown / Inform 911 / Counter / Evacuate
RUN / HIDE / FIGHT

RUN

1. Have an escape route & plan in mind. Know the exits!
2. Leave your belongings behind (except cell phone)
3. Keep your hands raised and visible, do not scream & yell.
4. Evacuate regardless of others
5. Move a safe distance away from facility
Is the Primary Exit blocked??
RUN / HIDE / FIGHT

**HIDE** (IF ESCAPE IS NOT POSSIBLE)

1. Get out of the shooter’s view
   Lock & block the door

2. Turn off lights & Silence phones

3. Hide behind large objects (cover and concealment)

4. Do not trap or restrict your ability to move

5. Make plans for a fight
   Act as a team!
RUN / HIDE / FIGHT

FIGHT

01 Commit to your actions (now it is you or him)

02 Improvise weapons

03 Incapacitate the shooter!
   Act with your most physical aggression!

04 Attack as a Team
SURVIVAL

CONTINUOUSLY

REASSESS AND ACT

To get yourself to safety
DEFENSE STRATEGY #2
MORE APPLICABLE TO MEETING / EVENT SITUATIONS

Avoid Deny Defend

Starting with: Avoid

Avoid the Confrontation
Lock them out
Become a harder target.
DENY

- If unable to get out - deny access
- Know your event area
  - Badge access doors
  - Solid doors
  - Windows
  - Possible escape routes
Deny

Make it very difficult
Barricade doors / windows
Put objects in the way
Stay out of sight
Call for help
Go back to avoid mode

Shooters don’t have much time
Deny
YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE WHEN YOUR LIFE IS ON THE LINE!

1. **Get ready to react** – you need to be the most aggressive you have ever been - it's him or you. *(you must use surprise and anger)*

2. **Find your weapons** – throw things *(more than one)*, yell, strike - whatever your total commitment can muster until you overcome! *(Even if you are injured continue! It is you or him – and it's not going to be you!)*

Office tools to fight with? Fire Extinguisher, Books, Tape Dispenser, the list never ends ___________________________
THE RIGHT MINDSET & TRAINING WILL GIVE YOU A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVING A CRITICAL INCIDENT!
YOUR FIRST RESPONSE

No Pre-Plans

REALIZATION OF DANGER

FEAR with
PANIC

Absence of training or
thought about an incident
results in disbelief and denial
and being frozen in fear

Training

REALIZATION OF DANGER

FEAR with
TRAINED RESPONSE

Trained people respond
according to what they have
rehearsed
BODY’S SURVIVAL STRESS REACTIONS

In combat a person’s heart rate can go from 70 Beats Per Minute (BPM) to 220 BPM in less than half a second. As your heart rate spirals upward you lose:

1. At 115 BPM – finger dexterity, eye hand coordination.
2. At 145 BPM – accurate hearing
3. At 175 BPM – memory
4. At 185-220 BPM – Body enters Hyper Vigilance /People find themselves unable to move, yell, scream, or process information on the threat
No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, so it’s important to quickly stop the blood loss.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings and move yourself and the injured person to safety, if necessary.

Call 911.

Bystanders can take simple steps to keep the injured alive until appropriate medical care is available. Here are three actions that you can take to help save a life:

1. **Apply Pressure with Hands**
   EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE to the bleeding site with both hands if possible.

2. **Apply Dressing and Press**
   EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE to the bleeding site with bandages or clothing.

3. **Apply Tourniquet(s)**
   If the bleeding doesn’t stop, place a tourniquet 2-3 inches closer to the torso from the bleeding. The tourniquet may be applied and secured over clothing.
   - **Pull** the strap through the buckle,
   - **Twist** the rod tightly,
   - **Clip** and **Secure** the rod with the clasp or the Velcro strap.
   
   If the bleeding still doesn’t stop, place a second tourniquet closer to the torso from first tourniquet.
Training

Periodic training is a must
Test the alert system
Table top exercises
Walk-through drills
Full scenarios
Medical training

Revert to even the most basic training

No plan = panic, fear and indecision
DIRECTION AND CONTROL

“Very little innovative thinking occurs under combat conditions, we must plan and train for the next fight before we’re in it.”

Dave Grossman
POLICE RESPONSE TACTICS

• Contact Team
  • Only Objective is to stop the event

• Rescue Team
  • Security & Care Providers
    • Triage & Life Saving only

• Evac Team
  • Begin evacuation of wounded
WHAT MAKES A HOTEL A SOFT TARGET?

1. Unrestricted public access
2. Unrestricted access to areas adjacent to buildings
3. Limited employee background checks
4. Limited security force
5. Unprotected HVAC system
6. Building designs are not security oriented
7. Multiple locations to place explosives or hazardous agents
WHAT MAKES A CONVENTION CENTER A SOFT TARGET?

1. Open access
2. Large Urban Locations
3. Limited background checks on employees / vendors
4. Little or no screening of patrons
5. Little standoff for parking areas
6. Deliveries are unmonitored

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection Series
PHYSICAL PRE-ATTACK INDICATORS (PAINS)

- Oversized or loose fitting clothes
- Clothes not appropriate for event/weather
- Keeping hands in pockets and otherwise concealing hands
- Repositioning weapon (confirmation touch)
- Small bulges near waste or hip
- Adjusting waistband or clothing
- Undo attention to carried objects
- Oversized torso or bulky jacket/vest
- Favoring one side (strong side)
- Blading (turning body to protect weapon)
CONTEXUTAL PROFILE

FIRST OBSERVATION
• CLOTHING
• AGE GROUP

SECONDARY OBSERVATION
• PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR
• PHYSICAL ACTIONS

SUSPICION RECOGNITION
• NOT TYPICAL FOR LOCATION
• CORRELATES WITH AMO

January 19, 2018
SUSPICION INDICATORS TOGETHER MEANS SOMETHING
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EVENT MANAGER

Create
Create your Safety, Security & First Responder Plan.

Appoint
Appoint a Security Team Leader to follow your plan at each site.
• Provide training on what & how to assess each site.

Check
Check for site and meeting content risk at the proposed venue.

Communicate
Communicate evacuation plan with attendees.
TERMINOLOGY

SECURITY – Protection from hostile forces.

SAFETY – The control of recognizable hazards.
SECURITY

Check
Research site for crime stats, past protest, your speaker’s volatility

Check Exits Primary & Secondary for access & a secure room with ability to lock.

Evaluate
The site security, accessibility, & Emergency Preparedness of site and communication systems.

Locate
Scan for Suspicious Items in the room

Scan for suspicious persons not part of the group
SECURITY – DAY OF EVENT

- Verify your previous security assessments
- Communicate security plan (evacuation) with attendees
- Maintain your Situational Awareness & Readiness to respond according to your safety, security & first responder plan.
SPECIAL EVENT SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Be vigilant even though no one else is taking the possibility of violence seriously.
2. The threat will likely come from the crowd, keep your eyes on the crowd.
3. Use available force multipliers.
4. Keep in contact with your intel sources, (know first responders arrival times).
5. Always be aware of your cover & concealment locations.
6. Use your instincts on crowd behavior and get response early. (pattern of behavior incongruent with time, setting & context of the situation)
7. Develop and write a company policy on the above and follow it.
THE IDEAL FACILITY FROM A SECURITY PERSPECTIVE

- Single entry portal for event guest
- Walkways from parking “close” and bollard protected
- Secureable doors separating meeting rooms
- Good communication system for event notification
- Security Camera monitored entry, delivery area, and back hallways
- The entire staff is security conscious
SAFETY

01 Have your lockout devices available

02 Have your trauma kits available:
  • CAT Tourniquets, compression bandages, chest seal, gloves, scissors, etc.

03 Know where light controls are and how to operate.

04 Have your fire extinguisher available.
Having a plan & engaging in mental rehearsal of your response can make a big difference if things go wrong.
It is only through the implementation of Your Preparedness Program and by incorporating Building Assessment, Planning, Training, & Testing that there is potential to make a difference in the outcome of deadly threat to your personnel.
### USING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR SURVIVAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RUN</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Exit</td>
<td>Secondary Exit</td>
<td>Nearby Securable area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIDE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Door lock?</td>
<td>Door swing?</td>
<td>Lights out?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tie Off Closure?</td>
<td>Any Improvised Weapons?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIGHT</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fire Extinguisher</td>
<td>Chairs</td>
<td>Books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“It was no accident that 262 people who were injured survived this...It was no accident 262 people were removed within 22 minutes...It was no accident people were evenly distributed to hospitals...It was no accident all equipment was on scene...It was no accident personnel was trained for this...” –Richard Serino
RESOURCES

• BJA – Department of Homeland Security, Infrastructure Protection Series. (September 2013)
• STRATFOR Worldview/Protecting Soft Target Venues by Scott Stewart (October 2017)
• Event Security: 7 best practices to stop or prevent violence. By Joel Schults, PhD
• 20 Active Killer Prevention Strategies Campus Safety Expert Series 2017
• Bizbash CEO comments
• ASIS Active Shooter from ASIS School Safety & Security Council
• MSA Security Active Shooter Symposium
HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE UNTHINKABLE

PREPARATION FOR THE EMERGING SPECTRUM OF ACTIVE THREATS FACED IN SOFT TARGET VENUES

W Scott Stephens, CPP           Stephens Security Group, LLC           Stephens958@Earthlink.net
QUESTIONS?

W Scott Stephens, CPP  Stephens Security Group, LLC  Stephens958@Earthlink.net