

Safe School Summit

School System Security

Two things you can do that will help make your campus safe.

- **Control Access**
- **Supervise Students**

Physical Security Options

- Cameras
- Access Control
- Fences
- Patented Lock System
- Metal Detectors
- Laminate on Glass



If we prepare for the worst

- Plan for the possibility not the probability
- Much of America's fear of school violence is based on high profile shootings
- Of all the violent deaths of school aged children less than 1% occur at school
- Violent deaths at school are rare but drive policy decisions

Continued

- On a day to day basis the greatest threats may be bullying, verbal and minor physical aggression.
- Must also be prepared for non-custodial parent issues, weather and natural disasters.
- Threat Assessment – Is there a program at your school?

Lessons Learned

- Invest in the people side of school safety – Training and SRO programs
- Lockdowns still work but.....
- Enhance Lockdowns
- Diversify drills
- Engage support staff



Lessons Learned cont.

- Train and empower all staff
- Assess Physical Security and procedures
- Strengthen Communication Capabilities
- Stay focused on proven, tested and reliable best practices.



What can you do

- Make safety a priority
- Establish responsible supervision plans for before, during and after school
- Minimize entrance and exit points
- Create partnerships with law enforcement
- Utilize current technology

- You do what you are trained to do.
- Most people cannot stop and weigh options during a crisis

Scenario – Based Training

- Crisis plans need to be in place before scenario training
- Helps identify gaps or flaws in the plan
- Empowers people to act
- First to know, First to act

Scenario – Based Training **

- Used by law enforcement, fire fighters, soldiers and pilots
- Exposes staff to crisis stress in a safe controlled environment
- Able to give and receive instant feedback
- Builds a response memory (you have been there before)



Evan

Situational Awareness

- Understanding Normal
- Brings recognition of a hazard in time to take action
- Improved situational awareness can help you recognize a threat earlier providing more time to respond, more options and more informed decision-making

Situational Awareness

- In the Parkland Florida attack perpetrator had no problem entering the school. He was carrying duffel bags.
- He was known and had been expelled
- In the Santa Fe attack perpetrator was wearing a trench coat in warm weather. Armed with a shotgun and fake IEDs
- How could situational awareness have helped in these incidents?
- What can we do to improve situational awareness on our campuses?

Situational Awareness

- The body cannot go where the mind has not been
- Has to be developed before a crisis occurs
- Assess surroundings – exits, intercoms, securable locations
- Assess classrooms – access control, safest available space
- Good situational Awareness – prepared, alert, relaxed

Situational Awareness

- Knowing what's going on around you
- Levels – perception, comprehension, projection
- Perception – gathering data
- Comprehension – interpreting the information
- Projection – Anticipating what could happen

Situational Awareness

- Stages of Situational Awareness
- Unaware – distracted, not paying attention – puts you at risk and vulnerable
- Passively Aware – paying attention to the environment and activity around you. Able to recognize normal.
- Active Awareness – Elevated after recognizing something not normal.
- Active Response – taking action

Intuition

- Our built in danger detector
- Understanding without a rationale
- Always in response to something
- Always in your best interest
- Don't ignore your intuition
- Humans are the only creatures that ignore intuition

Window of Life

- Protect yourself (so you can protect others)
- Protect those in the immediate area
- Protect the campus
- Notify external public safety

Options

- Everyone's options are not the same
- Where are you?
- Who is with you?
- Who are you responsible for?

Evacuate

- If it is safe to do so
- Direct contact but there is an escape route
- Location is non-securable
- Knowledge of intruder's location
- Plan possible escape routes
- Call 911 when safe to do so
- Take others with you

Hide

- Location can be secured
- No direct contact
- Don't know intruder's location
- Remain in place until cleared by law enforcement
- Lock doors and enhance the lockdown by barricading or other methods

Hide cont.

- Turn off lights
- Hide along the wall closest to the exit (6 inches)
- Remain silent
- Silence electronic devices
- Fatal Funnel (10 – 2)

Take Action

- Last resort when confronted by an armed intruder
- Neither running or hiding is an option
- Adults in immediate danger should consider trying to disrupt or incapacitate the intruder by using aggressive force and items in their environment
- Never a requirement but an option

Most Vulnerable Times at School

- Before School
- Lunch or Class Changes
- End of the Day
- Why?
- When do we drill?

Most Common Vulnerabilities in Schools

- Limited procedures, training and encouragement on reporting suspicious activity
- Limited or no armed security
- Limited or no inspection of student personal items
- Limited supervision outside of classroom

Continued

- Limited or no vehicle access control
- Limited security on school buses
- Proximity of schools to neighboring facilities
- Relatively open access to school grounds and buildings

Strategies for safer schools

- Create a focus on increased student supervision
- Develop positive connections between staff and students
- Create a greater sense of employee empowerment
- Improve access control
- Improve surveillance

Strategies continued

- Add important life-saving emergency protocols to your training and drills
- Increase the focus on the first 30 seconds of a school crisis event (Window of Life)
- Involve outside first responders in your drills
- Evaluate communication capabilities
- Conduct self evaluations on procedures

Access control

- Technology makes access control easier but it must be supported by good people.
- Identification badges – visitor, staff and students
- Interior access control is essential
- Watch for target identifiers
- 3 areas of access control – Exterior, Interior and classroom

Supervision of Students

- Train personnel in supervision techniques
- Supervise people
- Manage space
- Strategies must be customized to fit individual schools and populations

Supervision continued

- The most cost effective way to reduce risk of liability in schools is to supervise students
- Supervision Plan
- Identify “hot spots” (Track incidents)
- Don't overcrowd
- Own all the space

Crisis Response Plans

- Have you seen it?
- Have you practiced it?
- Will it work?

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