

Training First Responders and School Officials on Active Shooter Situations

The President's plan to reduce gun violence called on federal agencies to immediately expand access to federal training on active shooter situations. Since the shooting in Newtown, the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice have taken the following actions to implement the President's plan:

Department of Homeland Security

Outreach and Virtual Roundtable on Active Shooter Situations: DHS has reached out to law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services officials, as well as faith leaders and private sector partners from across the country, to get their input on best practices for improving prevention and response capabilities for mass casualty shootings. This outreach has included meetings, conference calls, and briefings, including an active shooter virtual roundtable for more than 2,400 law enforcement, school administrators, and faith-based leaders, which was conducted on May 1, 2013. This roundtable included briefings from DHS experts who discussed how to prevent and protect facilities from potential active shooter scenarios.

Launched a New Active Shooter Webpage: DHS launched a new active shooter webpage (<http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>), which includes active shooter training resources for federal, state, and local partners, as well as the public. Since its inception on January 16, 2013, the page has been accessed more than 139,000 times.

Site Security Assessments and Security Briefings: This year, DHS has conducted more than 1,000 outreach engagements, including site security assessments, critical infrastructure visits, and active shooter presentations for state and local partners, including first responders, law enforcement, school officials, faith leaders and private sector partners. These site assessments help facilities planners and managers improve their security measures in order to prevent and protect against potential active shooter scenarios. In addition, since December, DHS Protective Service Advisors, in partnership with the Secret Service and FBI, has conducted school security outreach briefings to 100 K-12 school districts nationally, ultimately reaching thousands of teachers, administrators, and school resource officers.

Active Shooter Workshops and Trainings: Since December, DHS has conducted over 17 active shooter workshops, 52 active shooter presentations, and 34 active shooter table-top exercises for schools and critical infrastructure partners, training thousands of individuals in procedures designed to mitigate the risk from active shooters. In addition, FEMA's Emergency Management Institute has redesigned its multi-hazard course and developed an active shooter independent study course for schools, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and houses of worship. This course focuses on threat identification, hazard assessment, planning, training, and

exercising using a “whole community”¹ approach. And FEMA, in partnership with the FBI, the National Counter Terrorism Center, and other partners, continues to conduct active shooter and mass casualty event training through FEMA’s Joint Counter Terrorism Awareness Workshop Series.

National Summit on Preventing Active Shooter Situations: The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center held a national summit on preventing multiple casualty violence, focusing on strategic approaches to information-sharing. This was the second summit conducted in response to the multiple mass casualty shootings that have taken place in the U.S. in the past two years, including Aurora and Newtown. These summits brought together stakeholders from fields such as law enforcement, health care, law, social sciences, education, and academia to discuss how to improve the nation’s ability to prevent future mass casualty attacks.

Department of Justice

Improving and Expanding Training for Law Enforcement: In response to the Newtown shooting, the FBI sought ways to better protect the lives of responding officers and the innocent people victimized by an active shooter. The FBI partnered with Texas State University (TSU) to update DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance funded tactical training for front line patrol officers that respond alone, or with one or two others, to an active shooter situation. The FBI then sent 100 of its trainers to TSU train-the-trainer programs, so these agents and their TSU counterparts can expand training on current active shooter response tactics nationwide. These instructors will provide this free and vital training to state and local law enforcement officers, and an additional \$1.1 million in funding provided by the FBI and DOJ will significantly increase the number of officers who receive this training.

Training at FBI Field Offices Nationwide: In April and May 2013, the FBI’s 56 field offices hosted newly-developed two-day workshops on active shooter situations, which brought together sheriffs, chiefs, and other senior command staff from more than 1,850 state, local, tribal, and campus police agencies. FBI experts and attendees shared lessons learned and best practices, and they discussed available resources when faced with responding to and recovering from active shooter and mass casualty incidents. All 56 FBI field offices nationwide also hosted active shooter tabletop exercises to focus on how to respond to and recover from a mass killing incident at an elementary school. More than 2,000 representatives from more than 1,000 agencies participated, including representatives from DHS, law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical services, as well as federal prosecutors and district, county, and states’ attorneys. FBI offices will continue to host these no-cost trainings and table-top exercises throughout 2013.

¹ The whole community includes individuals, families, and households; the private and nonprofit sectors; faith-based organizations; and local, state, tribal, territorial, and Federal governments.

New Critical Incident Handbooks: The FBI has developed and will distribute throughout the year 25,000 copies of a new comprehensive critical incident handbook specifically designed for state, local, campus and tribal law enforcement. The handbook, and an accompanying on-scene commander pocket guide, provides essential checklists, resources and guidance for on-scene commanders responding to events including active shooter and mass casualty incidents.

New Crisis Communication Quick Reference Guides: Effectively working with the media is a critical part of emergency management. The FBI developed and is distributing 25,000 new crisis communications quick reference guides. These pocket guides, which are being distributed to state, local, campus, and tribal law enforcement, provide easy-to-follow guidance on how to prepare to handle a national media event, a checklist to follow, and guidance on how to coordinate with unified command, manage press conferences, and deal with social media.

New Web Resource on Active Shooter Situations: The FBI initiated a new active shooter web page (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/active-shooter-and-mass-casualty-incidents>), to house information on best practices, lessons learned and resources on active shooter situations. The FBI also created an active shooter location on [Law Enforcement Online](#), a secured site that allows law enforcement agencies to share resources and speak to each other during ongoing events and investigations via a virtual command center.

Expanded Outreach: Since Newtown, the FBI, in partnership with DHS and other federal, state, local, tribal and campus law enforcement agencies, has hosted hundreds of meetings, exercises, and presentations with citizen groups, private industry and educational groups. These events have focused on best practices and lessons learned from the school shooting in Newtown, the theater shooting in Aurora, and the Sikh Temple shooting in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, as well as the response to the Boston Marathon bombing.