Welcome to the NVFC’s Train Strong Webinar Series.

Today’s webinar is Hostile Events: Preparing Your Emergency Organization for an ASHER Incident.
The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation.

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Contact IAFC Member Services:
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www.iafc.org
Panelists

Tom Miller  
NVFC

Chief David Hall  
IAFC

Chief Kevin McGee  
IAFC
ASHE/ASHER
OVERVIEW
ACTIVE SHOOTER/HOSTILE EVENT (ASHE) &
ACTIVE SHOOTER/HOSTILE EVENT RESPONSE (ASHER)

ASHE - An incident involving one or more individuals who are or have been actively engaged in harming, killing, or attempting to kill people in a populated area by means such as firearms, explosives, edged weapons, fire, or a combination, thereof.

ASHER - A community-based approach to preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery from an ASHER incident Inclusive of public and private partnerships, emergency management, the medical community, emergency responders, and the public
ASHER INCIDENTS

May arise from a host of origins:

“Lone wolf” actors who may be driven by everything from personal issues, e.g. domestic violence, disgruntled employees, etc.; to mental health problems, e.g. delusions or paranoia, drug use, etc.; to political ideology; to religious and/or other factors. **DO NOT** underestimate their threat!!!

**Terrorist type cells** - may be part of a wider attack

**Social or political unrest** - including anarchists and/or extreme militia type behavior
A HISTORY

• Texas Tower Incident, TX
• Columbine, CO
• Virginia Tech, VA
• Pulse Night Club, FL
• Route 91 Harvest Festival, NV
• First Baptist Church, TX
1. Route 91 Harvest music festival, Las Vegas, October 2, 2017: 59 killed, 526 injured.
2. Pulse, Orlando, Fla., June 2016: 49 killed and more than 50 injured.
5. First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas, November 2017: 26 killed.
10. University of Texas Tower, Austin, Texas, August 1966: 16 killed around campus.
17. Schoolhouse Lane neighborhood and Heather Highlands Mobile Home Village, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., September 1982: 13 killed.
ACTIVE SHOOTER STATISTICS

Between 2000 and 2018

277 incidents occurred between 2000 and 2018

2,430 Casualties, including killed and wounded (shooters were not included in this total)

884 were killed in 277 incidents

1,546 were wounded in 277 incidents

2016 & 2017
ASHER INCIDENTS - 2019

- 28 active shooter incidents in the United States last year
- FBI characteristics of shooters:
  - 26 acted alone
  - 28 male, 1 female
  - 5 were in their teens
  - 13 in their 20s
  - 4 in their 30s
  - 5 in their 40s
  - 2 in their 50s
  - 1 in his 60s
  - 9 shooters killed by law enforcement
  - 5 committed suicide

Source: https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2019-042820.pdf/view#~:text=The%20FBI%20has%20designated%2028%2C%20people%20in%20a%20populated%20area.&text=The%20FBI%20has%20designated%2028%20shootings%20in%202019%20as%20active%20shooter%20incidents.,-The%20FBI%20defines
Active Shooter Incidents Per Year

Quick Look: 277 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2018
Incidents Per Year

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2018
Active Shooter Casualties per Year

Quick Look: 277 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2018
Casualties Per Year
ACTIVE SHOOTER KILLED VS WOUNDED

Quick Look: 277 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2018
Casualty Breakdown Per Year

Year | Total | Killed | Wounded
--- | --- | --- | ---
2000 | 7 | 7 | 0
2001 | 12 | 5 | 7
2002 | 11 | 10 | 1
2003 | 12 | 9 | 3
2004 | 14 | 6 | 8
2005 | 24 | 22 | 2
2006 | 23 | 23 | 0
2007 | 69 | 57 | 12
2008 | 20 | 4 | 16
2009 | 65 | 28 | 37
2010 | 37 | 49 | 86
2011 | 32 | 22 | 44
2012 | 90 | 118 | 198
2013 | 44 | 42 | 86
2014 | 36 | 61 | 97
2015 | 56 | 76 | 134
2016 | 83 | 131 | 214
2017 | 83 | 128 | 213
2018 | 85 | 120 | 213

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2019
ACTIVE SHOOTER LOCATIONS

Quick Look: 277 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2018
Location Categories

- Education: 20.6% (57)
  - Schools (Pre-K to 12), 15.2% (42)
  - Institutions of Higher Education, 5.4% (15)

- Commerce: 43.7% (121)
  - Businesses, Open to pedestrian traffic, 26.7% (74)
  - Malls, 3.6% (10)
  - Businesses, Closed to pedestrian traffic, 13.4% (37)

- Open Space: 13.4% (37)

- Government: 9.4% (26)
  - Other Government Properties, 6.9% (19)
  - Military, 2.5% (7)

- Other Location: 0.4% (1)
  - Residences, 4.3% (12)
  - Houses of Worship, 4.0% (11)
  - Health Care Facilities, 4.3% (12)

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2018
Gender and Race of Active Shooters

Gender and Race:
The sample was overwhelmingly male (94%, n = 59), with only four females in the data set (6%, n = 4), and varied by race as shown in Figure 2.

![Race (N = 63) Pie Chart]

- White: 63%
- Black: 16%
- Asian: 10%
- Hispanic: 6%
- Middle Eastern: 3%
- Native American: 2%
ACTIVE SHOOTER STRESSORS


- Mental Health
- Financial Strain
- Job Related
- Conflicts with
- Marital Problems
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Other
- Conflict at school
- Physical injury
- Conflict with parents
- Conflict with other
- Sexual Stress
- Criminal problems
- Civil problem
- Death of a friend or
- None
PROTECTING OUR OWN
PROTECTING OUR OWN

Sadly, in recent years, there have been numerous reported incidents across North America of firefighters and fire stations coming under fire.
In the early morning of December 24, 2012, firefighters responding to a fire in West Webster, New York, a suburb of Rochester, were fired upon by 62-year-old William H. Spengler, who was believed to have deliberately set the fire. Two of the firefighters were killed. According to police, Spengler set his house on 191 Lake Road and the family car on fire in the early morning hours of Christmas Eve, and then armed himself with three guns: a Smith & Wesson .38-caliber revolver, a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun, and a .223-caliber Bushmaster AR-15 style rifle. When firefighters arrived shortly after 5:30 a.m., Spengler ambushed them from an earthen berm across the street from his house. Two firefighters were killed, and two others were injured. Spengler exchanged shots with police, who arrived with an armored truck to remove the firefighters and 33 nearby civilians. Spengler ran after getting shot at and died when he shot himself in the head. His body was discovered nearly six hours later. Due to the shooting, fire crews were unable to resume fighting the blaze until 11:30 a.m. By then, six other houses had burned to the ground, and two others had been rendered uninhabitable.
CONDUCTING A RISK ASSESSMENT

The current climate necessitates fire departments and other first responders to look at their facilities and their response SOPs as they relate to the potential for ASHER incidents.

First responders - fire, EMS, etc. - must maintain a heightened level of situational awareness and be prepared to take self protective actions.
PROTECTIVE MEASURES

• Train your members on ASHER incidents!
• Develop SOPs/SOGs based on your resources, needs, real or perceived threats, and mission.
• Look at “Stop the Bleed” kits, tourniquets, etc. for stocking in your station and on your rigs - TRAIN ON THEIR USE!!!
• Laminate station windows with a plastic film - helps prevent against the shattering of, and/or increases the protective level of the glass.
• Use of cameras - focused on points of access/egress - look at clarity, night vision capability, proximity to exterior lighting which can “blind” the camera, etc.
• Use the buddy system when dealing with members of the public - if something doesn’t “feel right”, get out of the situation ASAP.
• Plan for CISD/CISM or other post incident assistance.
NFPA 3000

STANDARD FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER/HOSTILE EVENT RESPONSE (ASHER) PROGRAM
NFPA 3000

Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program

Why NFPA?
- Time-Tested Process
- Accredited
- Can Build Consensus

Public Request to Create a New Standard

Provisional Standard Created

Active Shooter Events Keep Happening / Same After Action Issues

Creation of Formal, Balanced, and Broad Technical Committee

97% of Input was Positive to Create the Standard

Most Technical Committee Applications Ever Received
ACTIVE SHOOTER
NFPA 3000 – A RESOURCE FOR EVERYONE

- Community Leaders
- Emergency Management
- Public
- Healthcare Officials
- Non-Governmental Partners
- First Responders
- Facility Managers
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NFPA 3000 – FOUR MAIN CONCEPTS

Whole Community
Unified Command
Integrated Response
Planned Recovery

NFPA 3000™
PREVENTION AND PREPARATION
IAFC TOOLKIT
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

- Capturing best practices and lessons learned for national fire service
  - Engagement in standards making
- Building relationships with partners
- NCTC joint counterterrorism assessment team toolbox
- Fire service use and engagement in the intelligence community
  - Joint Terrorism Task Force – FBI
  - Intelligence Fusion Centers
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

• Integrated Response Training with LE, EMS, and PSAP
  • Established Professional Partnership with Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)
  • US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) Reports/Briefings
  • Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

• Active Shooter Toolbox
  • Active Shooter Preparedness and Response Literature
  • Development of SOPs SOGs
  • Active Shooter Response Checklist
As a first responder...

...you must work together across disciplines to have the needed knowledge and training to reduce harm.
PREVENTION AND PREPARATION
THREAT ASSESSMENTS
CONDUCTING A THREAT ASSESSMENT

The first step to protecting your community is understanding your vulnerabilities.

Consider:

- What site(s) could be potential targets?
  - Schools
  - Churches
  - Government buildings
  - Abortion clinics
  - Public areas - parks, swimming pools, etc.
  - Other - abortion clinics, political campaign offices, etc.
- How easily could someone access the specific site?
- What is the ease of movement throughout the site?
- What are your lockdown and video surveillance capabilities?
- What is the location of entry/exit points and evacuation routes?
- Are there places of “haven” or safety inside the site...proximate to the outside of the site?
- What is the security presence on-site?
- What notification procedures are in place if an event occurs?
- What resources do you have for dealing with an Active Shooter event?
RISK ASSESSMENT NEEDS

Your department may look at:

- **Community threat level** - may change rapidly
- **Personnel threat level** - do you have ballistic protection for responders?
- **Physical facility** - vulnerabilities, blind spots, door locks, etc.
- **“Open Door” policies** - public access
- **“Street Profile”** - what are “soft” spots - windows, doors, aprons
- **SOPs/SOGs**
PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

- Partners are essential while planning an ASHER event. These may include:
  - Law enforcement
  - School district
  - Local businesses
  - Nursing homes
- What can your partners provide?
  - Mutual aid
  - Transportation
  - Food services
  - IT services
  - “Go bags”
  - Back up locations
  - Supplies (food, walkie talkies, children’s activities, medical supplies)
GATHERING INTELLIGENCE

Forming strategic partnerships:

Local LE: Police/Sheriff
State LE: State Police/Highway Patrol, State Fusion Center(s)
Community Stakeholders: Schools - both public and private; Colleges/Universities; Churches; Government officials

Maintain and sustain those relationships - open exchanges of info.
GATHERING INTELLIGENCE

It is important to:

• Have a process in place to determine the credibility of information, e.g. dual factor authentication; LE corroboration; etc.
• Deal with tangibles
• Focus on mitigating threats as opposed to responding to events/incidents
• Be willing to share information
PREVENTION AND PREPARATION TRAINING
To ensure that a plan is deployed effectively, everyone needs to understand their roles and responsibilities in an ASHER incident. Conducting training exercises helps key stakeholders think about what they would need to do in an ASHER situation and familiarizes them with the procedures in place to help protect their safety.

- Tabletop exercises
- Communication exercises
- Tactical exercises
- Full-scale exercises

https://uknow.uky.edu/uk-happenings/uk-police-offer-several-active-shooter-response-training-sessions
1. **Prolonged shoot-out.** Keep those plans for the paintball teamwork day.

2. **Crowds of active shooter training observers.** Keep the vest-wearing watchers minimal and out of the way.

3. **Inadequate training equipment for rescue task force.** It is critical to have medical training equipment participants can use during the exercise.

4. **No crisis actors with moulage.** Responders need to actually touch, assess and perform the medical interventions needed.
TRAINING MISTAKES

5. **Lots of downtime.** Timing and keeping things moving is very important.

6. **Persnickety active shooter exercise evaluators.** This should be a learning experience with the evaluators using teachable moments to help guide the participants.

7. **Unrealistic scenarios:** Use real world events, statistics and reports to come up with realistic scenarios, rather than lots of bad guys and only a couple of injured people.

Source: Jim Morrisey, “*How to avoid the most common active shooter training mistakes*”, FireRescue!, February 6, 2020; [https://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-training/articles/how-to-avoid-the-most-common-active-shooter-training-mistakes-W37mW2mibd1DTdq1/](https://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-training/articles/how-to-avoid-the-most-common-active-shooter-training-mistakes-W37mW2mibd1DTdq1/)
FBI Resources on Active Shooter Incidents: [https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources](https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources)

A Study of Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States Between 2000 and 2013 | Federal Bureau of Investigation


U.S. Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Resources: [https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf?0.755244226207703](https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf?0.755244226207703)


ASSP's technical report, "How to Develop and Implement an Active Shooter/Armed Assailant Plan" (ASSP TR-Z590.5)

NFPA 3000 Assessment - [nfpa.org/nfpa3000-assessment](https://nfpa.org/nfpa3000-assessment)

First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in Improvised Explosive Device and/or Active Shooter Incidents - [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/First%20Responder%20Guidance%20June%202015%20Final%202.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/First%20Responder%20Guidance%20June%202015%20Final%202.pdf)


An Evidenced Based Prehospital Guideline for External Hemorrhage Control: American College of Surgeons Committee of Trauma - [https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/trauma/education/acscot%20evidencebased%20prehospital%20guidelines%20for%20external%20hemorrhage%20control.ashx](https://www.facs.org/~media/files/quality%20programs/trauma/education/acscot%20evidencebased%20prehospital%20guidelines%20for%20external%20hemorrhage%20control.ashx)
Q&A Session
Volunteer Voices

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

#CANCER
#FUNDING
#TRAINING
#RECRUITMENT
#SAFETY
#RETENTION

VISIT VOLUNTEERVOICES.NVFC.ORG
Thank You!

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