

School Violence Issues



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School Violence

Active Shooter Situations

- 1. Potential Liability**
- 2. Safety of Students**
- 3. Have a Plan**



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Active Shooter Situations

How an incident is handled may impact liability of School District.

- a) Failure to warn verdict awarded families to two Virginia Tech students.**
- b) Awarded each family \$4 million in damages.**

Have a Plan in place.

- a) Work with local law enforcement.**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

Columbine shooting in April 1999 changed the law enforcement approach to active shooters.

- **Traditional approach – perimeter and SWAT**
- **Columbine shooters killed 13 before committing suicide**
- **Columbine lawsuits – quicker response could have saved lives**
- **Watershed moment**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

“Shelter in Place”

Also known as “Lockdown” or “Security in Place”

- **Most Common Approach after Columbine**
- **Remain in locked classrooms**
- **Shooter will seek the path of least resistance and bypass locked doors**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

- **Changing Landscape**
 - **Virginia Tech & Fort Hood shooters rehearsed and practiced with targets at ground level**
 - **Virginia Tech students shot while hiding in hallways**
 - **Lockdown not always feasible**
 - **School library, lunchroom scenarios**
- **Additional options to Shelter in Place became necessary**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

Alternative Approach

- **A ALERT**
- **L LOCKDOWN**
- **I INFORM**
- **C COUNTER (CONFRONT)**
- **E EVACUATE (ESCAPE)**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

- **Has Met with Some Resistance**
- **Classroom Discretion**
- **School Accountability Methods**
- **Requires More Training**



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

Another Variation

- **Run – Hide – Fight**
 - <http://www.stlouisco.com/LawandPublicSafety/PoliceDepartment/Information/SurvivinganActiveShooterIncident>



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Active Shooter Situations (cont.)

- **Have a policy in place to address situations**
- **Work with local law enforcement**
- **Additional information available from the Safe Schools Partnership**



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Safe Schools Partnership

- **Established in 1998 in response to increasing incidents of school violence throughout the country**
- **Membership includes nearly every school district and law enforcement agency in St. Louis County.**
 - **Also includes agencies outside St. Louis County's geographical boundaries.**
- **Training is held twice a year**



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Safe Schools Partnership (cont.)

- **All documents related to the Safe Schools Partnership can be found at:**
 - www.stlouisco.com/police**
- **Once at the site look on left side of page for link to Partnership information including:**
 - **Manual**
 - **Safe Schools Hotline Brochure**
 - **Links to related sights**



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Questions???

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