

## School Shooting Safety Meeting Summary:

Presented by: Tom Hogan – Chester County District Attorney and Andy Trautmann – SWAT Leader and Detective

Prepared by: Alicia Smith

Meeting held at East High School 9/25/18 7pm – 9pm

1. Facts: 325 million people in US, 360 million guns. Skewed by area – Midwest, houses own multiple hunting rifles and gun. Some states have barely any.
2. Fact: 97% of school shooters are male, commit crime alone, and are between 15 – 19 and 33 – 45.
3. Went over the tools – Different types of guns. Even if guns taken out of picture the issue will become other weapons. Guns are simply tools, and when any tool is at the ready for a troubled person, it will be used as a weapon. Used examples of cars and drugs, hammer, etc. that could be turned into weapons if a gun is not available.
4. Two types of shootings:
  - a. Grudges – mainly high schools. Student attends school and is begrudged. Shoots up own school.
  - b. Random shooter – does not attend the victimized school. Mainly elementary and middle school. Called the Devil's Roulette.
5. Two types shooters:
  - a. Active shooter – coming in shooting anyone and anything, everyone is a target.
  - b. Targeted shooter – comes in looking for a certain pre-determined target (i.e. Ex-wife is a teacher, comes in wanting to kill her)
6. Media – mis-reporting of school shootings very frequently. When Targeted shooter comes in as disgruntled Ex, kills predetermined target in a school, this is reporting and recorded as a school shooting. Drug deal goes bad in parking lot of school, this is reported as a school shooting.
7. No question school shootings are increasing, 5 reasons why:
  - a. Desensitized to killing – video games are creating real life shooting situations and kids are training as a SWAT member that has been desensitized to killing people.
  - b. Social Media – bullying and teasing are rampant. Technology that parents don't even know about – sending a text to someone and it shows as coming from a different person. Voice changing technologies, fake social media accounts, etc.
  - c. Phones – kids have cell phones and iPad at a very young age, and are unsupervised on them most of the time.
  - d. Parent involvement – have your kid's passwords and do random account checks and phone checks. Be involved, as about their day, what's happening, etc. **YOU ARE TO BE A PARENT, NOT A FRIEND**
  - e. Accessibility – if you have firearms, lock them up. Make them completely inaccessible to everyone else.
  - f. Your theory...whatever your theory is, is contributing because it's a number of things, not just one.
8. Random shooter is left to law enforcement to catch prior to crime and prevent, there is nothing the community and parents can do. But if you see something out of ordinary or strange, report it.
9. There are five phases of a school shooter. In any phase the most important thing to do is **SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING**. You can text 911 a tip. You can call in a suspicion. The local officials would rather have 1,000 "no findings" cases than one case that could've been prevented. They can investigate a tip and decide what actions to take from there. This includes browser history, phone activity, etc.
  - a. Fantasy – "I failed that math test, I wish I could kill Mr. G" – report this even if it is the first time you've heard talk like that, simply report it. Let the officials figure out if it was innocent or not.
  - b. Planning – who what, where, when how will they commit the shooting.
  - c. Preparation – gather supplies to carry out the shooting.
  - d. Approach – last chance to stop the shooter before possible casualties. Walking, driving, etc, still a chance to stop the crime.
  - e. Implementation – shooting is carried out.

10. In all of the above stages SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. There is an opportunity to lower the body count the sooner its reported.
  - a. Even when you hear a loud bang – report it! An AR15 round sounds the same as a loud balloon popping, or a book falling square on a tile floor. You will not hear it through the whole school. Call it in – let an officer decide it was a balloon, its ok.
  - b. Fired blank AR-15 round for audience to hear the sound and become aware.

#### IF A SHOOTING HAPPENS:

1. Chester County is now trained in a new response method. First to the scene responds immediately by entering the building and stopping the threat. We know that 99.9% of the time shooters are alone, so one responder is enough to go in and neutralize the situation.
2. Watched a training video on the new response method, including injured actors and a perpetrator firing blanks. Very intense.
  - a. Dr. Scanlon has allowed local SWAT and law enforcement to train at some of the schools in our district.
3. For the school: RUN, HIDE, FIGHT
  - a. If the kids can get out and away from the school, RUN. Keep running until you can safely HIDE. Lastly, if trapped in the room with the shooter, FIGHT. They're teaching the students to use classroom objects as tools – throw trashcans, staplers, football players/coaches to tackle the perpetrator. Pepper spray for teachers.
  - b. When asked about age limits the DA said it should be taught at all age levels. Dr. Scanlon should clarify how elementary students are expected to fight.
4. Parents – you will be notified through the school safety system. Do not go to the school. In Sandy Hook ambulances and police had to park 1 mile away and run to the school because parents had the road blocked trying to get to the school. Stay put and you will be notified. DA said this will not be quick. They need to make sure a shooter has not been dismissed as a student and totally clear the school.

#### SUMMARY –

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. We need a community mindset and awareness. Andy Trautmann, SWAT Leader and Detective stated, "Think of a shooting not as an IF, but as a WHEN." Report to prevent as much as possible. Law Enforcement has stopped 98% of attempted school violent crimes in Chester County, but it takes the community's awareness and diligence to stop the remaining 2%.