# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY TENNESSEE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL



#### **Sudden Violence**

**Surviving an Active Shooter** 







#### Definition



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 An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

~U.S. Department of Homeland Security



### History



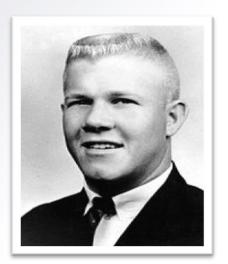
- July 26, 1764 Pennsylvania
  - Pontiac's Rebellion school massacre. Lenape American Indians kill schoolmaster Enoch Brown and 10 children.
- November 2, 1853 Louisville, Kentucky
  - Matthew Ward went to school and killed the Schoolmaster for excessively punishing his brother the day before.
- June 12, 1887: Cleveland, TN
  - Will Guess shoots Miss Irene Fann for whipping his little sister the day before at school.

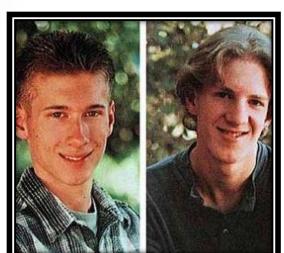




#### Cases of Interest

- August 1, 1966 Austin, TX
  - Charles Whitman, 25, kills 15 and wounds 31. Shot and killed by police. University of Texas. Lasted 90 minutes.
  - One of the first to be truly analyzed
  - Response of Officers and Civilians
  - Catalyst for Police SWAT Teams
- April 20, 1999 Columbine, CO
  - Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, kills 13 and wounds 24. Incident ended in suicide. Lasted 49 minutes.
  - Reevaluation of response procedures
  - Priority 1 neutralize the threat





















#### **Profile**



- There is no profile, but there are some similarities
- Overwhelming percentage are male (96%\*)
- Age: Schools 15-19 Non School 35-44
- Number of attackers: Overwhelming number are single attacker (98%\*)
- Planning: Wide range of sophistication
  - Some pre-planned, some impulsive, some fashioned defense systems and some learned from previous attackers



\*NYPD 2012 Study







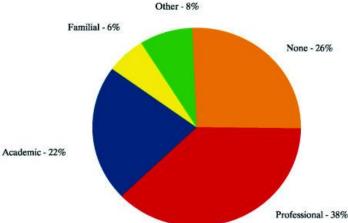
 Studies show attackers are often members of communities they attack

 Many had professional or academic relationship with at least one victim



Attacker relationship to victims

– NYPD study 2012







#### Attack Resolution

- Likely to end violently
  - Applied force (43%\*)
  - Suicide (40%\*)
  - No force (16%\*)
  - Fled (<1%\*)



- Average duration: 12 minutes
- Police response: 10 to 20 minutes













### **Emergency Response Plan**



- Evacuation vs. lock down <u>Have a Plan</u>
  - Evacuation routes
  - Physical security measures
- Familiarize yourself with emergency exits and escape routes and areas of protection



Have an emergency notification plan



# Preparation/Prevention



- Training <u>Practice the Plan</u>
  - Organization
  - Family
  - Individual





- Share the plan
- Foster a respectful workplace
- Be aware of indications of workplace violence and take remedial actions



#### **Indicators**



 Potential attackers do not just "snap", but display indicators of potentially violent acts

Active Shooter Myth

"He just snapped"

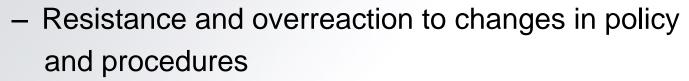




# Active Shooter Myth "No one knew"



- Not all encompassing:
  - Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs
  - Unexplained increase of absenteeism
  - Vague physical complaints
  - Noticeable decrease in appearance and hygiene



- Repeated violations of policy
- Increased severe mood swings
- Explosive outbursts of anger or rage without or with little provocation





- Suicidal comments
- Suspect or paranoid behavior
- Increasingly talks about problems at home or work
- Talks of previous violence empathy with individuals who commit violence
- Escalation of domestic problems into the workplace
- Increase in unsolicited talk about firearms, other dangerous weapons and violent crime
- Social media displays
- List is not comprehensive nor intended as a mechanism for diagnosing violent tendencies. Indicators are "Red Flags" and should be considered along with the totality of circumstances.





7 Signs of a Concealed Weapon

Security check

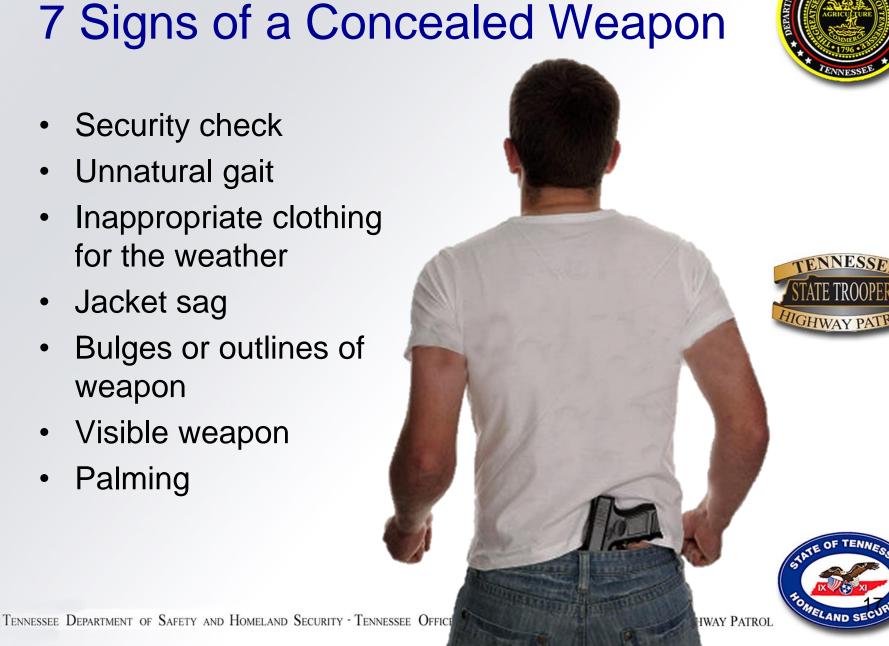
**Unnatural** gait

Inappropriate clothing for the weather

Jacket sag

Bulges or outlines of weapon

- Visible weapon
- **Palming**











#### Response

- What is your role?
  - Are you a bystander, employee, or management?
  - If management or in leadership role, others are likely to look to you for guidance.
  - Know that decisions must be made quickly and reasonably to protect life.







# Active Shooter Myth "If only we had a SWAT team or metal detectors"











# Option #1





# Run - Escape - Evacuate



- Get out, if at all possible, regardless of what others are doing
- Get to a safe location



Call 911 when able and safe to do so





# Option #2





#### Hide - Barricade - Lock out



- Find a safe place
- Lock the offender out
- Prevent access by:
  - ✓ Locking door
  - ✓ Barricade the door





Silence cell phone! Turn off noise sources, lights, etc





- Call 911 when safe to do so. If you cannot speak, leave line open and allow dispatcher to listen
- Try to remain calm



Formulate a plan for what you can do next





# Option #3





Fight - Take Action!

As a last resort, when your life is in imminent danger

 Act as aggressively as possible

- Improvise a weapon
- Commit to your actions



### If at all possible, work with others as TEAM!









# Emergency Dial 911



- Location of attack and attacker
- Number of attackers
- Physical description
- Number and type of weapons
- Number of potential victims at location





# When help arrives



- Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the attack
- Officer's will proceed directly to the area of attack
- Officer's will likely shout commands, may even be physical







#### Post Incident



- Assess the psychological state of individuals who were impacted
- Be aware of "copy-cats"



- It is important to critically review and analyze the incident and your or your organization's actions during the incident
- Return to normalcy as soon as possible





#### This presentation was developed by the:

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