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## ***“School Administrator Response to the Active Shooter/Active Assailant”***

### **Presentation Description:**

School attacks have occurred in the United States since 1764. However, it is just in the last 15 years that school shootings have increased significantly in frequency and lethality. School shootings have now become a commonplace event, occurring in cities large and small throughout the United States. Since the 1999 Columbine school shooting, there have been more than 100 *fatal* school shootings in the United States and more than 600 averted school attacks. Public safety agencies and schools are now placing an increased focus on prevention and response to these deadly events. The term “active assailant” includes perpetrators who utilize other attack tactics (such as explosives, knives, vehicles, fire, and so forth).

Active shooter events claim an average of 113 fatalities each year in the United States. Approximately half of these attacks occur at educational institutions. Research shows that active shooter events are rarely spontaneous, and perpetrators plan and prepare their attack for days, months, and even years. Case study research of active shooter events finds that perpetrators actively study prior events so that they can thwart school security measures and public safety response. This lecture will review the ways these attacks were averted and the plans the perpetrators intended to carry out.

This presentation discusses the data that is available on school shootings to establish best practices security procedures. A 2007 research study found that school active shooter training often presents conflicting information providing little to no value during an active shooter event. This presentation separates fact from fiction and offers multiple suggestions to increase safety and security to prevent an attack. This powerful lecture will discuss many facets of active shooter response. The active shooter history will be discussed, including the constant modification of active shooter attacks based on research the shooter(s) conducted. The profile of the active shooter will also be explored, including predictors based on age, race, academic history, and social status. The speaker will also review the differences in school safety and security procedures for K-12 campuses and institutes of higher learning. The legal liability and financial effect of an active shooter at a school will be discussed citing examples from previous attacks.

Last, actions to take during an active shooter event will be discussed. Public safety response to the event is discussed so school staff can create plans and procedures that complement public safety response. This class is designed specifically for school administrators, active public safety members (police, fire, and EMS), military law enforcement, and government officials. This lecture is the product of more than 13,000 hours of active shooter research conducted by Threat Suppression staff.

**Presentation Objectives:**

1. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn and discuss the history of school shootings in United States.
2. At the conclusion of this program, attendees can describe issues with profiling the active shooter.
3. At the conclusion of this program, attendees can describe methods by which school rampage attacks were averted and thwarted.
4. At the conclusion of the program, attendees can describe various methods to increase school safety and security.
5. At the conclusion of the program, attendees can describe appropriate actions to take during an active shooter event.
6. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to describe lessons learned from multiple active shooter events.