



THREAT SUPPRESSION, INCORPORATED

THREAT SUPPRESSION®

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Understanding the Psychology of the Adolescent Active Assailant: Psychology, Neuroscience, and Threat Assessment

Executive Summary:

This research-based presentation, supported by more than 300 scholarly references, examines how adolescent targeted violence can develop, how warning behaviors may appear, and where schools, families, mental-health professionals, community partners, and law enforcement can intervene. Participants explore adolescent brain development, emotional regulation, identity formation, grievance, fixation, social isolation, suicidal ideation, threat leakage, planning behaviors, and the environmental conditions that may shape a pathway toward violence. The course is designed to strengthen recognition and coordinated response without relying on a profile or treating any single diagnosis, stressor, or behavior as determinative. Through case studies, applied discussion, and behavioral threat assessment and management concepts, participants leave with a more disciplined framework for identifying concerns, sharing information, documenting decisions, and supporting proportionate prevention efforts.

THE CHALLENGE: Concern is not the same as prediction and not all threats are equal. Effective prevention depends on recognizing behavior in context, assessing and documenting carefully, and ensuring effective management strategies.

Course Overview:

Length	Four to eight hours, depending on agency need and scope.
Format	Instructor-led presentation with facilitated discussion, multiple case-based examples, and applied behavioral threat assessment and management concepts.
Audience	School and higher education administrators, educators, SROs, counselors, psychologists, social workers, BTAM team members, law enforcement, investigators, intelligence analysts, and public safety leaders.
Class Size	Host-specific. The lecture format has no fixed enrollment limit; final attendance and room requirements are confirmed during scheduling.
Prerequisites	Attendees must have completed the Threat Suppression course, " <u>Joint Public Safety Response to the Active Assailant</u> " prior to this course.
Cost	\$3,500 for a half-day or \$6,000 for one full-day. Travel and lodging are additional; government discounts and virtual delivery rates are available.

What Participants Will Learn:

Understanding the Pathway Without Creating a Profile

Adolescent targeted violence is not explained by one cause, one diagnosis, or one recognizable “type” of student. The course begins with that limitation because prevention is weakened when ordinary adolescent behavior is confused with a threat, or when a person is judged through a demographic, clinical, or social profile. Instead, participants examine patterns of behavior, communications, context, access, intent, capability, protective factors, and changes over time. The objective is not to label young people. It is to improve the quality of observation, reporting, assessment, intervention, and follow-through.

The Critical Transition: From Tactical to Incident Management

Participants review relevant research on adolescent brain development, executive functioning, emotional regulation, identity formation, trauma, social isolation, grievance development, and suicidal ideation. These topics are presented as possible influences and areas for inquiry, not as deterministic explanations for violence. The course also considers how family dynamics, peer relationships, online communities, school experiences, access to weapons, and perceived loss or injustice can interact with an individual’s thinking and behavior. Participants learn to ask what has changed, what is being communicated, what support or supervision is present, and what information remains unverified.

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Behavioral Threat Assessment, Management, and Prevention

The final portion connects individual warning behaviors to a broader Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) process. Participants examine how multidisciplinary teams establish activation thresholds, collect and corroborate information, document decisions, share information lawfully, identify protective factors, and select proportionate risk-management strategies. The course provides an overview of structured professional judgment and discusses the C-STAG, WAVR-21 and TRAP-18 as examples of assessment frameworks used in appropriate professional contexts. No instrument replaces trained judgment, a complete investigation, clinical care, legal review, or the policies of the host organization.

Prevention is presented as a shared responsibility. Schools and organizations may need to coordinate with families, mental-health providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, community partners, and specialized threat-assessment resources. Participants consider how to move from a vague concern to a documented report, a disciplined assessment, an intervention plan, and continued case management. The course also addresses legal and ethical considerations, including privacy, due process, disability-related protections,

the need to avoid stigmatizing language, and the importance of acting within agency policy and applicable law.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

- 1.** Define targeted violence and distinguish it from general misconduct, bullying, impulsive violence, and other forms of concerning behavior.
- 2.** Describe a pathway-to-violence model while recognizing that pathways are not linear, universal, or deterministic.
- 3.** Explain relevant aspects of adolescent brain development, executive functioning, emotional regulation, identity formation, trauma, and social context.
- 4.** Identify grievance, fixation, identification, leakage, planning, preparation, surveillance, acquisition, and rehearsal as investigative domains.
- 5.** Distinguish risk factors, warning behaviors, protective factors, and indicators that may require urgent action.
- 6.** Explain how suicidal ideation and homicidal intent may interact in some cases without assuming that they always do.
- 7.** Recognize threat leakage across social media, texts, journals, artwork, school assignments, conversations, videos, and other channels.
- 8.** Interpret a concerning communication in context, including its audience, timing, specificity, corroboration, and relationship to behavior.
- 9.** Describe the course concepts of the “injustice collector,” “violence coach,” fixation, identification, and emotional grounding or “dropping anchor.”
- 10.** Describe pre-operational planning, target selection, surveillance, weapon acquisition, rehearsal, and escalation as areas for careful inquiry.
- 11.** Explain the roles of multidisciplinary BTAM teams, activation thresholds, structured professional judgment, information sharing, and risk management.
- 12.** Describe appropriate uses and limitations of the WAVR-21 and TRAP-18 and explain why no single tool substitutes for professional judgment.
- 13.** Identify intervention and case-management opportunities that reduce violence risk while protecting individual rights and avoiding stigmatizing assumptions.
- 14.** Recognize the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration among schools, families, mental-health professionals, community partners, and law enforcement in preventing targeted violence.
- 15.** Develop practical questions for reporting, assessment, documentation, intervention, follow-up, and exercise design.

Host Agency Requirements:

The host agency is responsible for providing a suitable classroom or virtual learning environment, a computer, projector, and audio for in-person delivery. The host should confirm that the classroom is available for the full scheduled program and that participants can engage in confidential, professional discussion of sensitive material. If the course is delivered virtually, the host should provide a reliable platform, a technical point of contact, and a participant environment that supports discussion and case-study review.

Because this course addresses behavioral threat assessment and adolescent violence, the host should identify applicable reporting procedures, emergency contacts, behavioral threat assessment team members, and local policies before delivery. Hosts should also determine how questions involving a specific student, employee, patient, or community member will be referred for appropriate clinical, legal, or investigative review. The course is lecture and discussion based; live weapons, tactical equipment, or a practical response area are not required unless a separate exercise or practical component is commissioned.

Threat Suppression provides education and preparedness support. This presentation is not clinical diagnosis, psychotherapy, legal advice, or a substitute for agency policy, medical or mental-health care, legal counsel, or a formal threat assessment conducted by qualified professionals. The host remains responsible for its own policies, reporting obligations, clinical governance, operational decisions, and compliance with applicable law.

About Threat Suppression:

Threat Suppression, Incorporated is a research-driven safety, security, and public-safety training and consulting firm founded in 2012. The company is a leading provider of integrated active assailant training for the Department of War, providing more than 165 classes at 45 major installations. The company has invested more than 50,000 hours in internal active assailant research. Threat Suppression serves as a principal member of NFPA 3000 and participates in multiple state and federal ASHE workgroups that shape national active assailant preparedness standards and policy.

The company's leadership has commanded active assailant events and was lead author on the 2021 Oxford High School mass shooting after-action report, one of the most comprehensive analyses of an active assailant incident response. Threat Suppression provides active assailant preparedness, rescue task force training, emergency management support, behavioral threat assessment and management, exercises, after-action reviews, and physical security services to federal agencies, military installations, public safety organizations, healthcare systems, schools, and private organizations. Our work combines operational experience, applied research, and field-tested instruction.

To Schedule or Learn More:

Phone: 1-800-231-9106

Email: info@ThreatSuppression.com

Course Page: <https://www.threatsuppression.com/active-shooter-adolescent>

Website: www.threatsuppression.com