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Threat Suppression's Frequently Asked Questions for Agency Leaders

Q. Our agency frequently receives information from companies that want to provide training. How is your company any different?

A. Threat Suppression staff represents extensive experience in public safety and military special operation response. Our staff includes career law enforcement members (from local, state, and federal), career fire service officers, physicians, intelligence analysts, military Special Forces members, researchers, and university professors. In addition, we do not focus solely on training. Our staff are frequently conducting large-scale research projects, leading the nation in providing solutions to complex public safety problems. Our staff have been recognized by numerous federal agencies as a national leader in public safety response training and consulting.

Q. There are lots of "experts" out there teaching active shooter response. Why is the Threat Suppression course any different?

First, we firmly believe there are no "experts" in active shooter response. These events are too dynamic and complex for anyone to be an "expert" in active shooters. However, our course is the result of more than 10,000 hours of research on the subject. Our presentation includes more than 500 peer-reviewed research references and is firmly ground in statistical evidence. Threat Suppression's President and CEO Mike Clumpner, PhD, wrote his doctoral dissertation research on joint public safety response to active shooter events (the world's first and only doctoral dissertation on active shooters). In addition, Threat Suppression staff led the development of one of the nation's largest joint public safety active shooter protocol development and training initiatives. Following implementation of the protocol, Threat Suppression staff designed and led more than 75 large-scale active shooter drills analyzing the effectiveness of the joint response model. Our course is the result of collaboration from Threat Suppression employees; including physicians, paramedics, career fire officers, law enforcement training instructors, United States military Special Forces operators, federal intelligence analysts, psychologists, and school safety administrators. Threat Suppression staff currently serve on numerous active shooter planning and response committees and local, state, and federal levels. Our staff has personally interviewed numerous responders from Columbine, Virginia Tech, Newtown, Sikh Temple, Platte Canyon, San Bernardino, Century 16 Theater, Pulse Nightclub, and many more active shooter events. In addition, Threat Suppression staff are members of multiple criminal and terrorism intelligence groups, providing current, vetted intelligence on threats against the United States.

Q. Are active shooter events actually increasing?

A. Citing research conducted by Texas State University and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, active shooter events have increased 600% since 2009, and the number of victims shot and killed at these events has increased 150%.

Q. Our law enforcement agency has conducted active shooter training since 2000. How is this course any different from all of the other active shooter training currently available?

A. This course critically examines the integration of police, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. Nearly all law enforcement active shooter training has focused solely on engagement and neutralization of the threat. This course covers numerous law enforcement considerations at these events, but also clearly defines the priorities of fire department personnel and emergency medical personnel. This course focuses on the totality of the event and how each agency can work to support the objectives and priorities of other agencies. In addition, this course discusses numerous asymmetric attack tactics used by perpetrators and methods that law enforcement can counteract these tactics. This course also extensively covers perpetrator characteristics, threat assessment, and threat leakage. Many active shooter training programs are just now discussing integrating fire and EMS into the response. However, Threat Suppression staff has taught an integrated active shooter response model since 2007 to agencies on four continents. In addition, the course is one of the most heavily researched active shooter courses in the United States. The result of more than 10,000 hours of research, this course cites more than 500 references to provide an unparalleled, vetted, accurate training course.

Q. Active shooter events are primarily just a law enforcement response event. Do fire departments and EMS agencies need to have this training?

A. Data obtained from numerous active shooter events shows that approximately 20% of the victims die from treatable injuries. Their deaths occur because of a significant delay in medical care. The six highest casualty active shooter events since 2000 have occurred despite law enforcement arriving on scene in three minutes or less. The national standard and recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Hartford Consensus clearly state that fire departments and EMS agencies need to have defined response protocols for active shooter events. All of these agencies recommend an aggressive, integrated response model that has fire and EMS personnel quickly entering the structure with law enforcement protection. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has also stated that all law enforcement agencies must have plans and policies in place to immediately provide care to the injured at active shooter events. The national standard of care states that it is no longer acceptable for fire and EMS personnel to stage and wait for an “all clear” by law enforcement. Fire and EMS personnel must effectively integrate quickly with law enforcement to treat and remove casualties.

Q. Are police departments, fire departments, and EMS agencies liable for their response at active shooter events?

A. Police departments, fire departments, and EMS agencies are absolutely liable for their actions or inactions (real or perceived) at active shooter events. At the Columbine shooting, 17 lawsuits were filed against Littleton Police Department, Littleton Fire Department, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for the lack of aggressive response to save victims. At the Virginia Tech shooting, 1,200 lawsuits were filed against Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Police Department, Blacksburg Fire Department, and Blacksburg Rescue Squad. A total of \$11 million was paid out in lawsuit settlements at Virginia Tech. In addition, the Virginia Tech Police Chief was personally sued for the deaths of two students. The courts found the chief negligent and awarded the families an \$8 million verdict. In October, 2014 the family of the slain TSA officer at the LAX shooting filed a \$25 million lawsuit against the LAX Police, Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Fire Department for alleged failed response at the LAX shooting. The families of three victims of the 2015 San Bernardino shooting filed a \$204 million lawsuit against the county for failing to plan, prepare, and adequately respond to the attack.

Q. Your course talks extensively about asymmetric attack tactics used by active shooters. What are asymmetric tactics and how frequently are these tactics used at active shooter events?

A. Asymmetric attack tactics include vehicle-as-a-weapon, fire-as-a-weapon, barricades (denial of entry), use of chemical munitions (CS gas), use of smoke grenades, explosives, perpetrators dressing like police officers, perpetrators wearing ballistic protection, and more. A review of the last 30 active shooter attacks shows that 50% of perpetrators are using at least one asymmetric attack tactic.

Q. Our city is primarily an affluent community. Isn't it true that the majority of school shootings occur in inner-city neighborhoods in large cities?

A. No. The vast majority of school shootings occur in affluent communities known for stability. Extremely few school shootings have actually occurred in metropolitan areas, and even fewer have occurred in inner-city neighborhoods. In fact, 98% of active shooter events have occurred in a community served by a police department with fewer than 100 officers.

Q. Why should we have Threat Suppression provide our agency with active shooter training?

A. Threat Suppression is recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities in active shooter response training. We have provided active shooter training for more 60,000 responders from 3,000 public safety agencies throughout the United States. We have provided integrated active shooter training since 2007 and have taught active shooter seminars on four continents. The Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and the Department of Education have recognized Threat Suppression as one of the nation's top active shooter training companies. The Department of Homeland Security has contracted with Threat Suppression to create several DHS active shooter training curriculums. Numerous agencies have received active shooter training from Threat Suppression, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, the United States Marshals, the Transportation Security Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the United States District Attorney's Office, the State Department, and the Department of Defense. Large educational institutions such as Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the nation's third largest community college system have also utilized Threat Suppression to provide active shooter training. In addition, Threat Suppression staff has provided active shooter training and consulting to law enforcement agencies, militaries, and schools outside of the United States.

Q. What types of active shooter services does Threat Suppression provide?

A. Threat Suppression provides comprehensive active shooter prevention and response training. We provide training courses ranging from two hours to a full week. We provide active shooter response training for school resource officers, patrol officers, SWAT teams, fire departments, and emergency medical personnel. We also provide training on media response at active shooter events, methods to prevent active shooter attacks, creation of school violence assessment taskforces, and development of current school safety and security policies. We provide tabletop exercises and full-scale large active shooter exercises. We have provided training for numerous school staff, including maintenance staff, school architects, counselors, secretaries, teachers, principals, and school board members.

Q. How much does Threat Suppression training cost?

A. Our training is competitively priced. We understand that money is limited for training. We believe in the critical importance of this training and we work very hard to make sure that the training is affordable for our clients. Each training package is designed uniquely for the needs of our clients, making sure that the needs are met in the most cost efficient manner. Please contact us at info@ThreatSuppression.com or 800-231-9106 for a price quote and availability. To learn more about Threat Suppression, please visit our website at www.ThreatSuppression.com.