COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS

HOW PREPARED IS YOUR COMMUNITY FOR A CRISIS INCIDENT?

YOUR PRESENTERS:

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Presentation Agenda:

• Building stronger communities
• Preparing for small, usual, and major incidents: What can you plan for?
• Controlling the potential collateral damage to your community:
  • Infrastructure, Community Identity, Businesses, Residents
• Networking with available resources for greater impact
• Utilizing pre-event local resource organization, training, and preparation
• Utilizing Incident Command
  • Local, County, State, and Federal stakeholders
• Media relationships
• Social media maintenance and management
• Define the event or it will define your community forever!
• Lessons learned
Examples of Soft Targets & Crowded Places (ST-CP)

Sports venues, concerts, shopping venues, schools, hotels, transportation, bars, houses of worship, theaters

- Easily accessible to large numbers of people
- Limited security or protective measures in place by design
- Public gatherings are encouraged, making them vulnerable to attack
The Intelligence Community has assessed that for the foreseeable future, ST-CPs will continue to remain attractive targets for various threat actors.

U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Hearing, March 30, 2017
Attacks on ST-CPs have occurred with unfortunate frequency both in the U.S. and abroad over the past decade. Among other incidents, the U.S. has experienced mass shootings in Community centers, public concerts, movie theaters.

Firearms and edged weapon attacks at shopping malls, education and healthcare facilities.

Vehicles used as weapons to target individuals on pedestrian walkways and roads.

Vehicles used as weapons to target individuals at a public rally.

Detonation or attempted detonation of IEDs at local and national sporting events and other places of mass gatherings.
U.S. Mass Killing Incidents, 1982-2019: Data From Mother Jones’ Investigation

Current numbers as of Aug. 4, 2019 Post Dayton OH, 115 incidents.

1406 total injured, 934 killed.

The latest study from the FBI determined that mass shootings have tripled in frequency in recent years.
What is the motivation to prepare?

- Who shoulders the liability/blame?
- Who pays the price?
- What are permit requirements?

If communities fail to plan, they will certainly not recover from an event crisis:

- Socially, economically, community viability, business climate and attraction capability.
Who has the responsibility to help reduce incidents?

• The General Public
• Owners and Operators of ST-CPs
• Private Industry
• State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments
• Federal Government
Owners and Operators of ST-CPs

- Understanding threats and risks associated with their venue
- Designing and implementing appropriate security measures
- Raising awareness among staff and patrons
- Reporting security incidents or suspicious activities
Private Industry

Private security providers and professionals:

- Key part in protecting ST-CPs
- Risk analysis experts, Private security officers
- Personnel security contractors

- All are directly responsible for strengthening the security of ST-CPs.
- They often are the first line of defense against an attack.
- Consequently, they must be well-trained, professional, and held to a standard of excellence.
State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Governments

- Managing security at various ST-CP venues and events
  - Develop, implement, and regularly test protective security measures.
- Overseeing local emergency management capabilities
  - Assess capacity and readiness to deliver the capabilities most likely required during an incident and identify and correct any shortfalls.
- Managing fusion centers falls under the responsibility of County, or
- Local Law Enforcement.
Event Management

Training:

• Training plays a critical role in capability and capacity building:
  • Table-top Drills
  • Skills and asset utilization planning
  • Partnership building
  • Response evaluation and critique
Early Identification

See Something, Hear Something, Say/Send Something

• Community Messaging must be a commitment!
  • Utilization of partnerships:
    • Local Print, Radio, Cable Access Channels, Billboard
    • Electronic Media, Local Hospitals, Schools
PUBLIC EVENTS SECURITY TIPS

• Coordinate with available intelligence resources
• Strategically set up your events
• Secure your entry points
• Secure your exit points
• Surveillance of vital areas
• Security presence
• Stop disturbances immediately!
• Send them away (remove problems)
Involve **ALL** agencies for intelligence

- State Emergency Management Agency
- Homeland Security
- State Police
- Municipal Police/Beat Officers
- Neighborhood Associations
There may be Federal resources available

Local, Regional, or State Police agencies may need to be involved in the planning phases to assure all resources are available during potentially dangerous events.

- Elevated risk events, or events that involve potential national security interests will require additional planning and leadership by various federal authorities.
- State Police or County/Regional/Tribal Police may be required to access additional resources.
  - Counter-terrorism event-focused information monitoring
  - Assistance with population influx:
    - Traffic control and concerns
    - Crowd management and control
    - Protesters and counter-protesters
    - Potential medical concerns
    - Additional resources, people and equipment
WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED?

- Events expecting crowds of 10,000 or more and require vehicular flow changes add additional measures.
  - Emergency Action Plan
    - Site Specific Operations Plan
    - Notification Chart and Procedures
    - Responsibilities
    - Preventative actions
  - Emergency Medical Services Plan including:
    - On-site medical treatment area: Min. 4 beds, adequate lighting and hvac
    - Licensed Physician: Special Event Emergency Support Physician (ALS/BLS)
    - Specified Triage, Temporary Morgue areas
Securing the venue/vehicle traffic

• Have an advanced plan in place with mutual resources.
  • Engineering, Public Works, Police, Fire, EMS, etc.

• Coordinate with local media
  • Provide alternate routes

• Maintaining vehicular separation
  • Use of energy deflecting/absorbing devices
  • Use of vehicles and traffic control devices
Keep vehicles out of your event
Secure your event from vehicle traffic!

Groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda have called on followers to use trucks as weapons.
SECURE THE EVENT LOCATION

THIS IS NOT SAFE
Concrete separation of cars/people

THIS IS SAFER
SURVEILLANCE OF VITAL AREAS

- Pole Cameras
- Camera and Light station towers
- Plain-clothed Police or security
- Lighting improvements
- Physical barriers
- Event staff only posting
- Vehicle vs. Pedestrian separation
Create a clear security presence
Quickly identify disturbance roles and remove **Active Unlawful Activist(s):**

- **Active Core:** Carry out action of crowd (often unlawful)
- **Cheerleaders:** Provide oral support for leaders
- **Observers:** Follow actions but rarely take part
Send them away / Keep them OUT

When offenders are removed

• Always prosecute unlawful activity when protesters are removed.
• Booking and processing should occur off-premises.
• Offenders should be banned from the event and receive and sign a Notice of Trespass.
• Bonding and release should occur at a distance from the event.
THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Contact local security experts to identify subtle risks.
- Is it possible to use metal detectors or bag checks at the entrances?
- Clearly advertise that weapons etc. are not allowed prior to the event.
- Secure all entrances and exits. (staffed with security officers)
- Have adequate lighting available to illuminate the venue.
- Have an escape area and shelter-in-place area, if appropriate.
- Establish an incident command unit off property to manage the event.
- Have a clearly identifiable CCTV system in use and monitored.
- Flashing blue lights on all cameras)
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

• Have you provided for the needs of people with disabilities?

• Prepare public safety personnel to protect themselves. Ensure that your community’s public safety personnel are adequately trained and equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) as dictated by their response role to protect themselves as they help others.

• Is a staging area for protestors necessary? Is it required?

• Does the site allow for mass decontamination considerations?

• Will seasonal weather require any special contingency planning?

• What is the duration of the event, and will it continue during the hours of darkness?
Crowd Dynamics and Behaviors

Crowd Behaviors
Crowd Compositions
Crowd Control Techniques
Crowd Hazards
Use of Overhead Observation
CROWD COMPOSITION

HOW WELL ORGANIZED ARE THEY?
• Clear leadership, cohesive, unity of purpose

HOW VOLATILE ARE THEY?
• Anger increases and crowd vocalizes intent

HOW LAWLESS ARE THEY?
• Throwing items, disrupting un-involved bystanders

ARE THEY LIKELY TO CAUSE DAMAGE?
• History of crowd, damage to barriers, surrounding property

IS THERE A NEED FOR CROWD CONTROL?
• Decide thresholds before the need arises
Crowd Density
Crowd Behaviors

- Walking
- Spectators
- Expressive Threatening
- Aggressive/Hostile
- Demonstrative

- Escape/Trampling/Compacting
- Violent/Terrorizing
- Rushing/Looting/Attacking
- Throwing rocks, stones, bottles
- Burning, breaking glass,
- Damaging property
Crowd Behaviors/Expression
Growing Crowd Anger
Crowd Violence Increased
Crowd “Mob Mindset” Dynamics
Not prepared to deal with the potentially violent crowd dynamics
CROWD CONTROL STAGING AREAS

- Cache rapid response units in strategic safe areas for deployment.
- Have relief units available to assist with ems units.
- Store supplies and needs in several locations.
- Need community resource partnerships ahead of time.
CROWD CONTROL
STAGING AREAS

UTILIZE SEVERAL POINTS OF OBSERVATION AND CROWD INTELLIGENCE:

• Uniformed security units
• Plain-clothes security units
• CCTV/overhead drone monitoring
• Mass communications systems from sources
• Social media monitoring
• Media staging area
The new thought on crowd control

Officers in full-on riot gear give all of the individuals in a protest crowd a common enemy.

Social science writer, Vaughan Bell, gave an example of this behavioral model during the U.K. riots in 2011.
Ferguson Protesters Now Protesting Over Not Getting Paid

Read Newsmax: Ferguson Protesters Now Protesting Over Not Getting Paid | Newsmax.com

By JAMES RUFUS KOREN
OCT 21, 2018

Paid protesters are a real thing.

Crowds on Demand, a Beverly Hills firm that’s an outspoken player in the business of hiring protesters, boasts on its website that it provides its clients with “protests, rallies, flash-mobs, paparazzi events and other inventive PR stunts.... We provide everything including the people, the materials and even the ideas.”
Meanwhile, protests are increasing

• The “Yellow Vests” protests in Paris have been called the worst riots to hit the French capital since the turbulent 1960s, with NBC News reporting more than 100 people injured and 412 arrested in protests.
  • They sprung up quickly, for a variety of reasons.
  • They’re decentralized, commonly using social media to assemble.
  • They’re spreading once in France, now happening all around western Europe.
The Yellow Vest movement began in Paris, France but has now taken root throughout Europe and is spreading towards the US at an alarming speed.

- Highly organized and educated.
- Very violent and dangerous.

The KKK and Antifa groups clashed in Charlottesville, SC and Boston, MA. The groups are very active in Berkley, CA.
How will other agencies be involved?

- Public Works
- Utilities
- Government buildings
- Fire department
- Hospitals
- EMS
- Elected officials
The Crown Heights Riots in 1991, when New York Mayor David Dinkins held the police back in order to let protesters “blow off a little steam.” The destructive result was something anyone who runs a city should have studied.

Yes, she said it! Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake stood before the news cameras and really did say, “We also gave those who wish to destroy, space to do that as well.” -Baltimore Riots of April 2015

“What we see tonight that is going on in our city is very disturbing,” she now said with considerable understatement. She reported that the National Guard would be deployed as soon as it was available, no doubt to restrict the space of these destroyers.
Elected officials may seem to walk the line of commitment to Emergency Responders and the public interest. Don't be offended, just focus on your job. Hopefully, they support your work; but the reality is, it sometimes won’t feel that way.

Everyone has a different view of the public issue. This should emphasize your motivation to build the relationship.
PLAN AHEAD

NEVER “WING IT”

BE A TEAM!