ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER AT WORK?

### William F. Flynn

President, GARDA Risk Management, LLC Partner, The Power of Preparedness

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#### MY BACKGROUND

- President, GARDA Risk Management, LLC
- Partner, The Power of Preparedness (TPOP)
- Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, DHS Infrastructure Protection
- Senior Fellow, GWU Center for Homeland & Cyber Security
- Retired Assistant Commissioner, NYPD

#### THE VIOLENT EXTREMIST THREAT

- Transnational terrorists plotting large scale attacks
  - Still a goal, but capabilities have been diminished
- Homegrown violent extremism
  - "Come join the jihad, or operate and conduct attacks locally"
- Foreign fighters
  - Somalia
  - Syria



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#### **EVOLVING THREATS**

- Cyber threat actors becoming more knowledgeable
  - Exploiting various aspects of grid infrastructure
- Insider threat
  - Achilles heel for critical infrastructure protection





#### ARE YOU PREPARED?

Active shooter events evolve quickly



"911...what is the nature of your emergency?"

"There's someone in the main entrance with a gun and I don't..."



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#### THE CLOCK IS TICKING: EVERY SECOND COUNTS

- A five-year study published by Tactical Response Magazine
  - Examined 24 school shootings in 18 states and 41 workplace shootings in 12 states
  - Based on time between each shooting & the number of victims shot, one person dies every 15 seconds
- Typical event is over in three to five minutes



#### AVERAGE POLICE RESPONSE IS FIVE TO SEVEN MINUTES

- Initial shot fired: first 911 call is placed
  - 15 seconds = one dead
- Phone call ringing and connecting to 911
  - 15 seconds = one dead
- Dialog of details between caller and 911 dispatcher
  - 15 seconds = one dead
- Call being dispatched and answered by police
  - 15 seconds = one dead
- Four people are dead before the police unit even has a chance to respond



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#### WHAT IS AN "ACTIVE SHOOTER"?

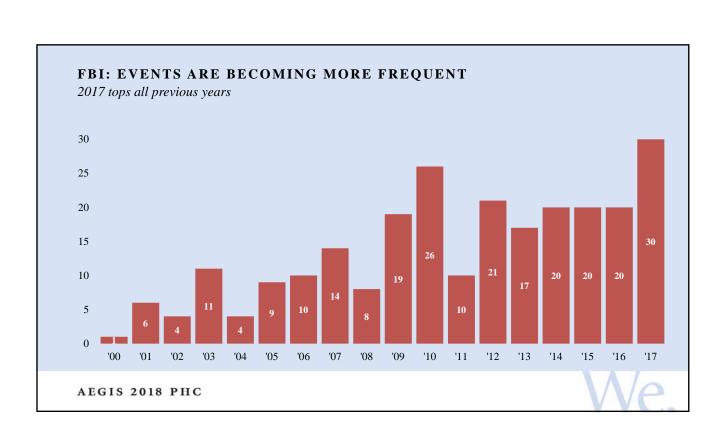


# FBI + Department Of Homeland Security ACTIVE SHOOTER DEFINITION



- "Active Shooter" is an individual or persons actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area
- In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims

# SHOOTERS THREATEN ALL TYPES OF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN ALL TYPES OF WORK I TYPES OF WORK I TYPES OF WORK I TYPES OF WORK I TYPES OF EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN ALL TYPES OF WORK





# PREPAREDIESS The Path to Violence: The YouTube Active Shooter

#### **EVOLUTION OF POLICE RESPONSE**

- Pre-Columbine High School
  - Conventional response
  - Establish perimeter and call SWAT
- Post-Columbine High School
  - Unconventional response
  - Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (IARD)
    - Save lives
    - Locate, neutralize, remove and contain the threat



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#### **EVOLUTION OF POLICE RESPONSE**

- Virginia Tech
  - Illustrated the need for first responders to have forced entry breaching capability
- Fort Hood open area engagement
  - Started indoors but engaged the shooter outdoors
  - Small team tactics traditionally taught for interior team movements
  - Same tactics outdoors can be ineffective



#### **EVOLUTION OF POLICE RESPONSE**

- Aurora, Colorado theater shooting
  - First responders proficient at getting in the door and stopping the killing
  - In mass casualty events, EMS can be overwhelmed
  - Law enforcement (and staff) must be trained to assist with immediate life-saving aid prior to arrival of EMS

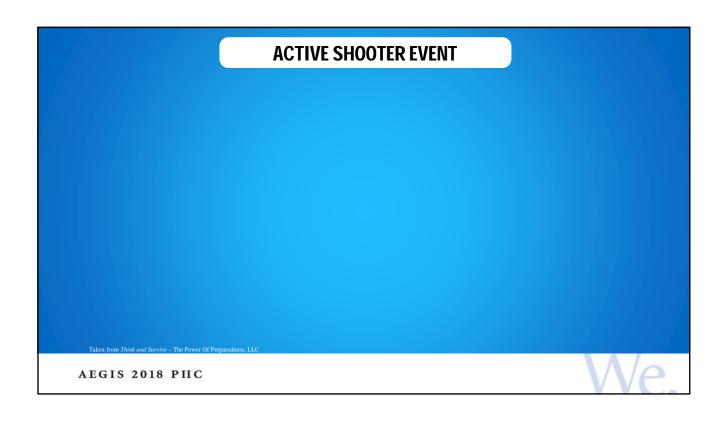


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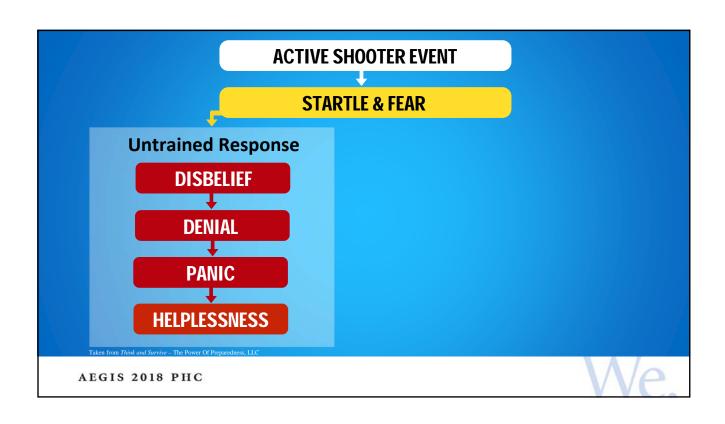
#### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IF CAUGHT IN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT

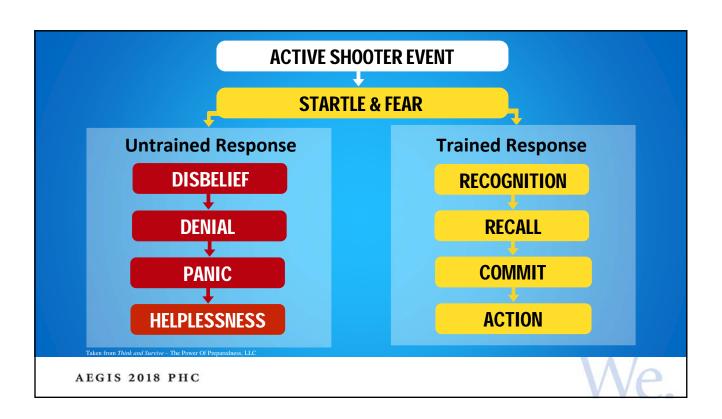
- Hyperventilation
- Accelerated heart rate
- Adrenaline rush
- Loss of peripheral vision
- Diminished hearing









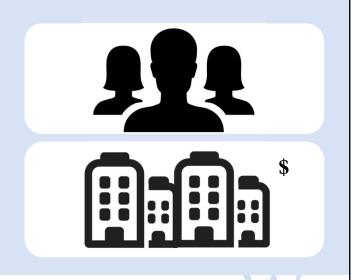


# Your Obligation to Train

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#### YOUR OBLIGATION TO TRAIN: TWO REASONS

- 1. To save lives and protect your staff
  - Events happening in all sectors and increasing in frequency
- 2. To reduce liability and preserve your business
  - Loss of life results in litigation and disruption to all aspects of the company



#### REDUCE LIABILITY AND PRESERVE YOUR BUSINESS

Impacting the financial viability of organizations

- US businesses spend approximately \$121 billion annually responding to workplace violence events
- Non-fatal assaults alone result in 876,000 lost workdays and \$16 million in lost wages
- Results include lost productivity and sales, clean-up or refurbishing costs, increased insurance costs, lawsuits, and settlements



National Institute for the Prevention of Workplace Violence, Inc.

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#### LIABILITY & LITIGATION - LAS VEGAS SHOOTING

- 450+ plaintiffs
- MGM Resorts International owner of Mandalay Bay; Live Nation organizer of music festival; Estate of Assailant
- MGM allege negligence for security polices, training staff, surveillance of premises, incident response
- Live Nation failure to provide enough exits, training employees



#### LIABILITY & LITIGATION - WASHINGTON NAVY YARD

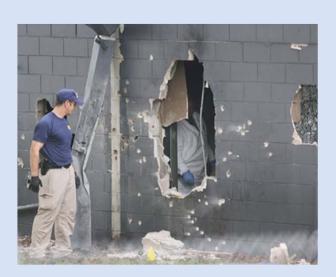
- Family of victim files a \$37.5 million wrongful death claim
- Suit alleged the Navy & the Department of Veterans Affairs overlooked or missed a series of red flags that should have alerted them to the troubled history of the shooter
- The action inspired other victims' families to seek legal advice or file lawsuits



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#### LIABILITY & LITIGATION - PULSE NIGHTCLUB

- 49 dead and 53 injured
- Three-hour standoff with police
- 200+ rounds fired in less than five minutes
- 35 victims sue city for violating their Constitutional rights
- Allege police should have acted more aggressively to prevent mass casualties
- Suit calls for additional training and resources, jury trial and undetermined monetary judgment



# Surviving an Event

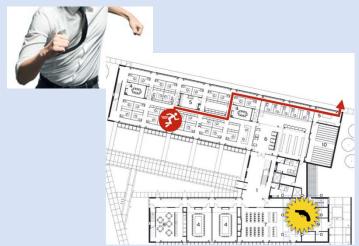
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# SCENARIO 1: YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE SHOOTER



### RUN

- Run to the nearest exit
- Leave your belongings, silence your phone, call 911 when safe
- Have a destination in mind
- Just as important to run to safety as it is to run from danger



#### SCENARIO 2: YOU CANNOT TELL WHERE THE SHOTS CAME FROM



- Find the closest room with a lockable door and as few windows as possible, barricade the door
- You can't be a target if the gunman does not know where you are
- When shooters encounter locked doors, they tend to move on



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#### SCENARIO 3: YOU COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE SHOOTER



- You are now in an actual lifeand-death situation
- Act as aggressively as possible
- Improvise weapons
- Attack as a group ("swarm") if possible



#### **VIDEO TWO**

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**Run-Hide-Fight: The Waffle House Active Shooter** 

#### TAKE-AWAYS

- Understand / update the company's emergency plan
  - Building evacuation routes
  - Shelter-in-place procedures and locations
  - Primary & secondary staging areas
  - Include law enforcement in planning
- Ensure multi-disciplinary involvement leadership, security, HR, legal, OSHA, EAP, communications...
- Train entire staff in the foundational principles of Run-Hide-Fight
- Exercise these principles
- Maintain situational awareness





#### THE CURRENT TYPICAL STATE OF TRAINING

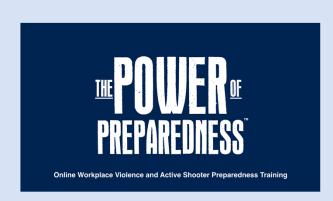
- Acronym confusion ("alphabet soup")
- Stand-up training limitations
  - One-to-many
  - Scheduling requirements
  - Geographic requirements
  - PowerPoint boredom
  - Expensive particularly for multiple locations
  - Staff turnover



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#### THE POWER OF PREPAREDNESS (TPOP)

- Effective and affordable online training
- Reaches beyond limitations of stand-up training
- World class subject matter, expert faculty
- Reach your entire staff instantly no matter where they are – via computer, smartphone or tablet
- One-to-one interactivity assures learning and compliance
- Excellent on-boarding tool



THANK YOU

# thepowerofpreparedness.com

wflynn@tpopllc.com 833.723.3893