

November 16, 2023 – Meeting Minutes
Story County Emergency Operations Center

Attendees:

Anthony Romero-ISU EH&S
Melissa Evans- Hach
Tom Hackett- Ames Fire
Daniela Ambrosio- Burke Corp
Russell Robinson- Hach
Melissa Spencer- SCEMA
Micah Andersen- SCSO Jail

Scott Wheeler- Lincolnway Energy
Gregg Elsberry- Hy-Vee
Brian Pontius- Hy-Vee
Steve Arthur- Hach
Rawlin Kinney-Merck
Samantha Scharper-SCEMA
Karissa Hendrick- SCSO Jail

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 1:10 PM by Chair Spencer

Approval of Agenda & Minutes:

Approval of August minutes and November Tentative Agenda. Motion by Hackett, 2nd by Wheeler. MCU

Guest Speaker: Hostile Intruder/Stop the Bleed Training- Micah Andersen- SCSO Assistant Jail Administrator

Session Highlights

The history of active shooter incidents were covered with discussion about how it is important for individuals to have tools and training to protect themselves until law enforcement arrives. These incidents have also changed how law enforcement responds to an active shooter. Story County officers are trained to pursue the shooter until they are no longer a threat. The incidents discussed were the Texas Bell Tower, Virginia Tech, Las Vegas Route 91 Festival, Uvalde Texas, Nashville Tennessee, Sandy Hook and Columbine.

Prevention is the first step to deter a hostile intruder. This can be accomplished by locking doors and only having one point of entry to the building and screening for sensitive areas of the building. Informal and formal threat assessments can be useful to determine the level of security that should be in place.

See Something, Say Something is critical to prevention. Most hostile individuals will leave clues well before acting. You may notice the individual is experiencing increased domestic violence, making social media posts with threats, making weapon purchases, isolating themselves, financial recklessness. Don't be "Iowa Nice". Report suspicious behavior. Don't bring suspicious packages into the building, look for unattended bags.

Motives are usually a grievance with a person or business, mental health and ideological issues. Active Shooters are mostly male with no other significant indicators, Most incidents are with a firearm at a business. However, incidents can also occurred with vehicles driven into a crowd of people.

Mitigation- Detect, Delay, Respond

Tools to detect that are beneficial are cameras, on-site security, and clear lines of sight at entry points. Deterrents can be one point of entry and physical barriers. You will need to determine your criteria for when it is time to secure the area or wait. Duress alarms that dial 911 could be beneficial for response. Do not use codes for events and share the location of an intruder via overhead announcement systems if safe to do so.

Law Enforcement will respond towards an intruder until they are neutralized and will bypass injured people. It is important to have plans and training on how you will care for yourself until it is safe for EMS response to enter the building. First Aid and Stop the Bleed training can assist with selfcare.

An Active Shooter does not mean they are shooting a gun. It could be another weapon such as a vehicle or knives. It is anyone that has the intent to do harm. Don't wait for them to act before starting a law enforcement response.

As you are planning for an event, think about escape paths in your working environment. Do you have more than one entrance or exit from your work space? Can you go out a window or through walls to get to a safe place. Think about choke points for your exit strategy. Are there others that will also be trying to get out of the same exit. Don't wait for others. Make sure you save yourself first. Call 911 when it's safe to do so. Don't stand around outside the building like a fire drill. Seek out cover or a sheltering place away from your building.

If you can't get to an exit, lock the doors, turn off the lights, and close the blinds on windows. Most intruders will bypass doors that are locked. If you are going to barricade a door, think about how you can quickly remove that barricade so you can escape once the intruder has passed by.

Arm yourself with anything that is handy like a fire extinguisher, stapler or other heavy object. There is strength in numbers if an intruder would access your space. If you manage to take a weapon away from an intruder, place it inside a garbage can or other container so it does not look like you are a threat to law enforcement.

Recovery takes time. Develop plans for how you will resume operations at another location and also in your current space. Develop plans for a reception center for families to be reunited or get information about your employees. Look at providing psychological first aid for your employees after an event.

After you develop your plans, test them. Test the counter measures you plan to use such as using a PA system and calling 911. If employees are going to be armed, really think about if you are ready to take a life.

The Story County Sheriff's Office is willing to come out to local businesses and assist with walk throughs to identify areas to plan for. You can reach out to Micah Andersen at mandersen@storycountyiowa.gov with questions or to request a walkthrough.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Training: None

Exercises: None

IDNR reported spills:

Next meeting: February 22nd, 2024

Motion by Hackett, 2nd by Wheeler to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM