Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

Outline

- Disaster Response Psychology
- Active Shooter Events (ASE)
- Civilian Response to ASE

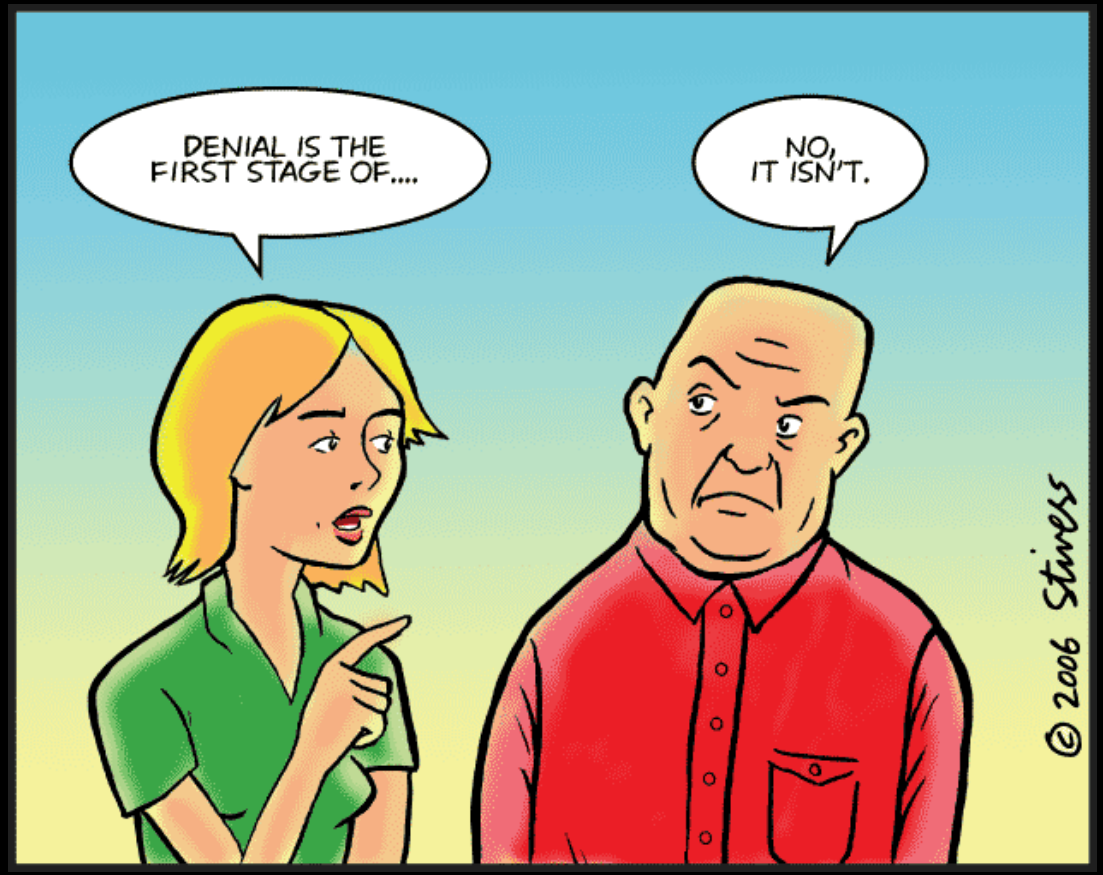
Disaster Response

The background science of how people behave in high stress events

Three Stages of Disaster Response

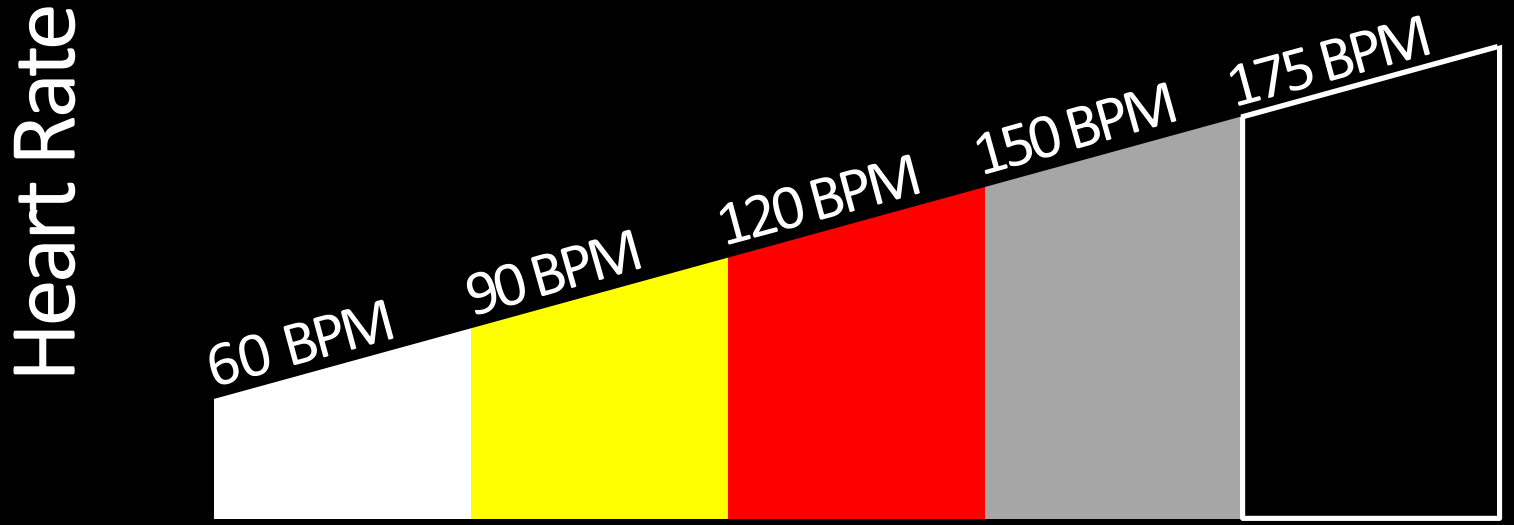
- Denial
- Deliberation
- Decisive Moment

Denial

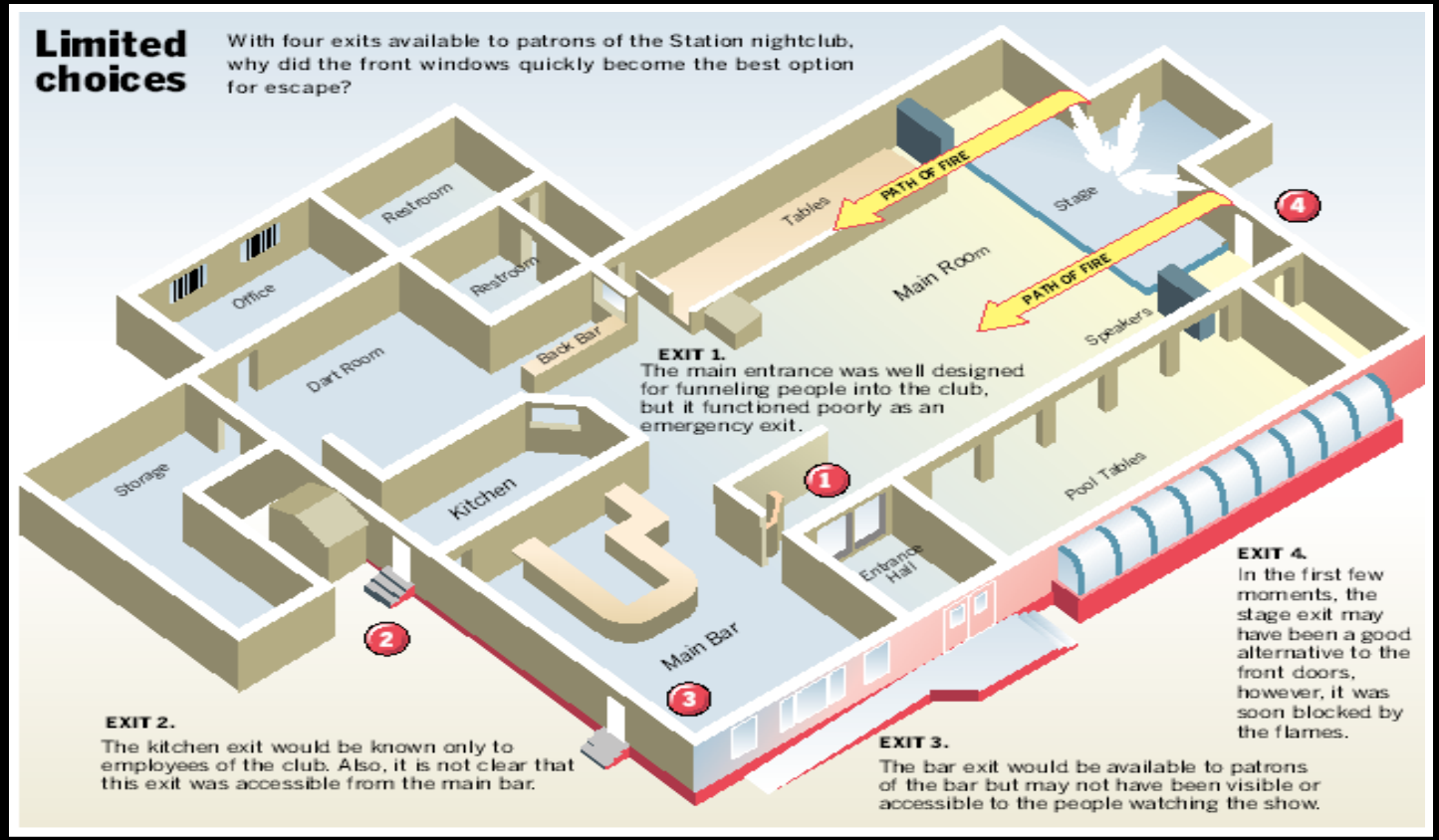


Deliberation

Stress Response

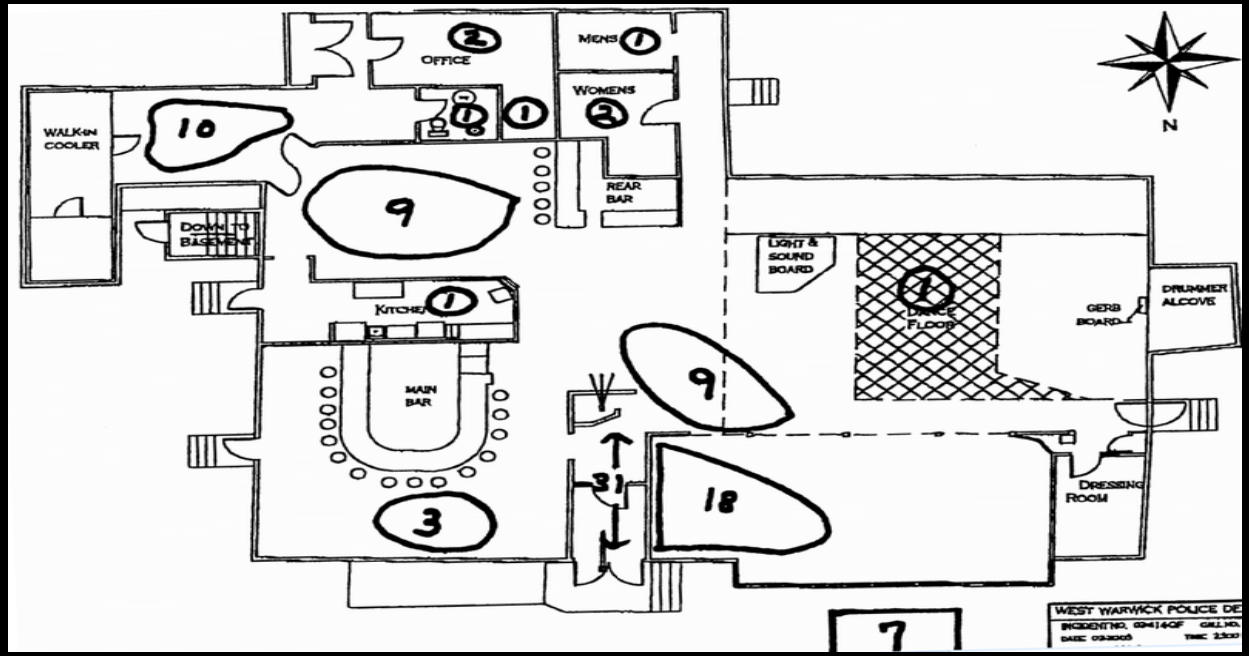


Deliberation



Station Night Club Fire

Deliberation



Deliberation

- Calm yourself
- Combat breathing
- Shift your emotion
- Mental Scripting

Deliberation

- Script
- Practice

Rick Rescorla

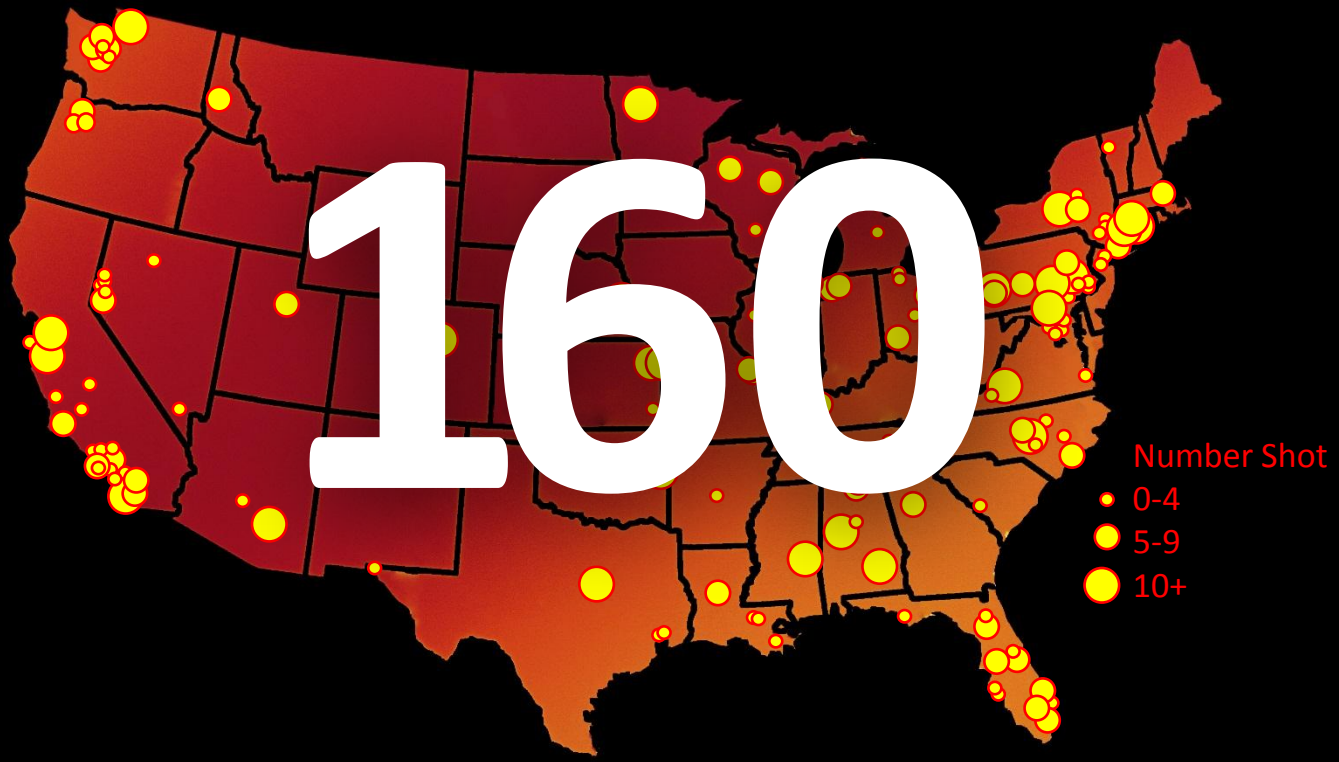
Decisive Moment

Active Shooter Events

Active Shooter Event Definition

- An active shooter event involves one or more persons engaged in killing or attempting to kill multiple people in an area occupied by multiple unrelated individuals.

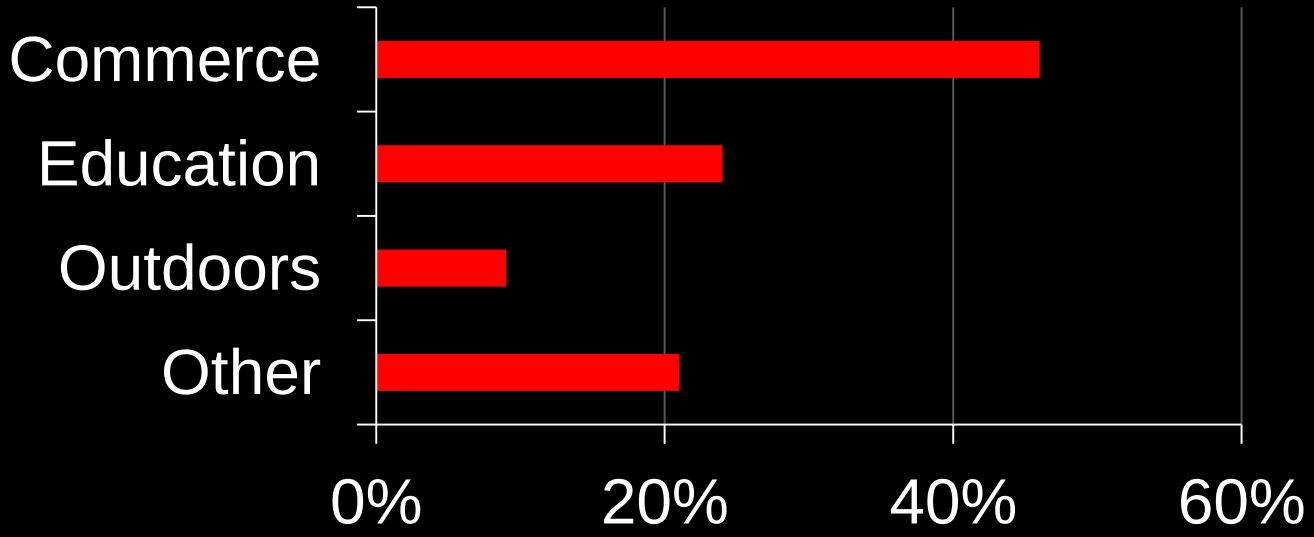
2013



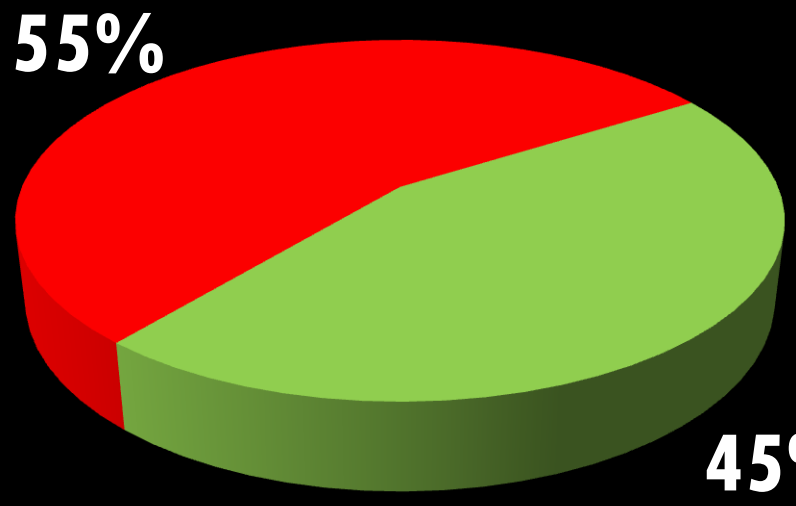
The Shooter

- No “Profile”
- Avenger Mindset
- Some broadcast

Location of Attacks



Shooter Connection



Connection

No Connection

Fort Hood, TX (2009)
CAUTION

Reliable Metals, AL (2009)

Edmond, OK (1986)

Menasha, WI (2015)

Not Normal

- Trust your instincts
- See something, say something

Not Normal

Columbine

- 76 IED's
  - 30 detonated
  - 46 unexploded

Not Normal

Aurora

- Suspect
  - Dressed in militaristic gear
  - Several weapons

Not Normal

Neenah

- Suspicious Package
  - Suitcase in lot
  - Car sped away

Number of Deaths

Target availability

How quickly the police arrive

3 Minutes

Civilian Response

Denial

- Don’t Deny
- Hear Gunshots
- Go to deliberation

Hide & Hope

Deliberation

- Avoid
- Deny
- Defend

Avoid

- Situational Awareness

Avoid

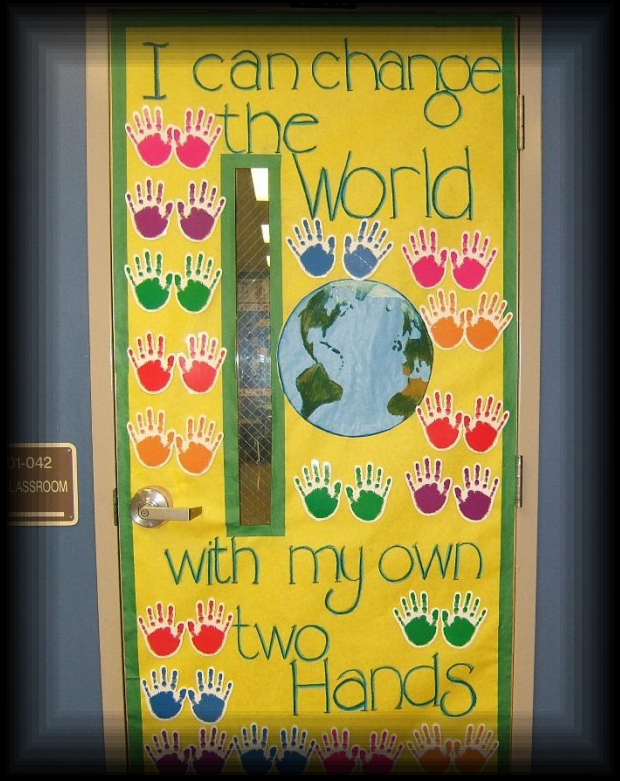
- Leave ASAP
- Know your exits
- Call 911

Avoid

- Consider Secondary Exits

Deny

- Lock the door
- Lights out
- Out of sight



Deny

- Barricade
  - Heavier = Better
  - More = Better
  - Doorstops = Better?

Deny

- Outward opening
  - –Ropes
  - –Tactical Cinch

Defend

- Positioning
- Grab the gun
- Fight

Defend

I'm not going out in a parking lot. I'm not going out like this. I'm not gonna let my wife down. I'm not gonna let my daughter down, and I'm not letting my step-kids down.

– Lt Brian Murphy

You are not helpless

Priority of Work

- Stop the Killing
- Stop the Dying
- Evacuate the Area

When the Police Arrive

- Follow commands
- Show your palms
- Do not move

Medical

- EMS Delay
- People Need Help
- Seek training

Plan ahead

- Risk Assessment
- Work with local police

Personnel Issues

- Expect mental trauma
- Develop a critical incident stress management plan

Schools

- No curriculum/one answer fits all!
  - *"It depends"*
- Accountability
  - Next to impossible
  - Kids are smart

Schools

- Practice!
  - Regular and at odd times
- Situational awareness
  - Strategize

Questions?

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