



Active Shooter Training: The "10 Minute Drill"

Active Shooter Training? Try some "**Ten Minute Drills**"

Most active shooter situations end in less than 12 minutes so your drills and training need to reflect that. Tactics vary but speed is critical, initial responders have to decide whether the situation requires one-man entry or waiting for others. By running drills that have a hard end at 10 minutes you'll start getting a sense for what's possible. Pre-staging, 4-man & team level entries are great for training in tactics and teamwork but in a school or workplace shooting are you really going to have the time to wait? History says no, try some no-notice drills that stress critical decision making in the first 2 minutes from shots fired.

Here's a way to do it: The school and public safety leaders agree that there's going to be a no-notice drill on Thursday at 10am.

- The school leadership plans for a lockdown drill, police, fire & EMS leadership plan for the response and pre-assign safety observers/controllers at the school.
- At the time of the drill everyone should be in their normal patrol routine so when dispatch announces "**This is a Drill, Reports of Shooting at (_____) school**" The response you get (and train with) is as close to real world as possible.
- If things are going well dispatch should be able to advise the responders where in the school the incident is (wing, room name or number and floor) and advise the responding units on where to enter, i.e. "door 7 on the north side of the building" **before they arrive**.
- At 10:10 the drill is over and leadership can meet and debrief: Did you get police there quick enough? Was the EMT response quick enough to prevent wounded from bleeding to death? How did the initial communications go? There's a lot that can be learned in a "**10 Minute Drill**."

You don't have to spend a ton of money on the training if you roll it into your normal routine, in fact it should be no cost. If you run a "**10 Minute Drill**" you're only utilizing resources that are already on hand. Specialty training is important but it often requires overtime, grant money and an outside "expert" that has a methodology they like to use. This added cost and burden actually limits the frequency of the drills and training and, depending on the methodology, can stifle creativity. That creativity piece is critical, the best ideas usually come from the responders themselves, not from a national study or a think tank.

Anyone that follows sports knows that football teams practice for a "2 minute drill" all season, just as hockey teams practice the 2 minute power play. The teams know that during these critical two minutes the clock is ticking and you only get 120 ticks...then it's over. All the strategies in the world and all the fancy gear doesn't change the fact that critical decisions have to be made fast, people have to perform without a lot of discussion, and time is the enemy.

I'm Safe Apps has developed a Smartphone based system to facilitate the initial crisis response to active shooters, teachers & staff can provide real time situational awareness including room-by-room status in the first minute of a lockdown. This information can be relayed to responding units before they arrive. ***When Wheels Stop Turning...Feet Start Moving.***

Learn more about the system at www.imsafeapps.com