



Risk Management Solutions



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A Quarterly Newsletter of the AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division

From Columbine to Uvalde: Is Your Police Department Ready for An Active Shooter?

Terry Sanders • Police Safety Consultant • AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Services

This article is a follow up to the Summer 2018 *Risk Management Solutions* article “School Active Shooter Occurrences: Meeting the Threat with Proper Policy and Training”. The original article was written in the wake of the Parkland, Florida mass shooting where the first responding officers failed to follow national established best practices and make an immediate entry to stop the shooter.

Now, over 3 years later, an even more horrific mass shooting has occurred in Uvalde, Texas at the Robb Elementary School. Regrettably, again, the first responding officers failed to make immediate entry. In fact, hundreds of officers from Uvalde and surrounding agencies responded to the school but failed to enter the room where the shooter was actively taking innocent lives.

Excerpts taken from the Robb Elementary School shooting timeline:

11:33:00 - Suspect Enters the school through the west door

11:33:24 - Suspect begins shooting into classroom 111/112 from hallway

11:35:55 - 3 Uvalde PD Officers enter west door (including 2 with rifles)

12:46:18 - Uvalde ISD Chief Arredondo: “If ya’ll are ready to do it, you do it...”

12:47:57 - Sledge Hammer enters from east hallway

12:50:03 - Breach and termination gunfire

“One hour, fourteen minutes, and eight seconds from the time the first officers entered the school until the door of the classroom was breached and the active shooting was terminated!”

The tragedy that unfolded in Parkland, Florida and Uvalde, Texas could happen in Alabama and our law enforcement **MUST** do everything within their control to ensure it does not! Uvalde spoke loudly and clearly for the need to address this issue again. With all the events occurring in our world today, tragedies like Uvalde fall off the radar of 24-hour cable news coverage. It must, however, stay on law enforcement’s radar. Simply put, we cannot afford to take our eyes off the ball on this one!

Following the Parkland, Florida school shooting, AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Services updated the sample School Active Shooter policy based on “lessons learned.” In response to the Uvalde shooting, we have made some important updates. The most important update following Uvalde concerns “On Scene Command.” Customarily, the jurisdiction involved has command and control of the situation until the scene is turned over to a specially trained unit or another agency. During an “active” shooter situation, the first officer on the scene must make speedy decisions and as such an officer, corporal or sergeant is the “On Scene Commander.” Decisions made when officer(s) first arrive are life and death decisions. Our updated policy addresses situations where an agency of jurisdiction is clearly failing to make immediate entry (Best Practice) where an active shooter is firing at students. Responding officers from other agencies will, in accordance with their policy and training, make the entry... “Lead, follow or get out of the way.” Arguments and hurt feelings can be dealt with later. To access all our sample police policies, go to: www.losscontrol.org and click on Reference Documents. In the search field enter PSOP. You can download in MS Word all sample policies to include School Active Shooter.

George Santayana made the famous quote in 1905 “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” which was later paraphrased by Sir Winston Churchill “Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” The sad truth is that both these quotes are true when it comes to school shootings. Columbine was our wake-up call but are we completely awake? Law enforcement has developed better policy and training to

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deal with an active shooter on a school campus. The critical question is, do all police agencies have good policies, training, and response to active shooter situations? Based on Parkland, Florida, and three years later Uvalde, we have the answer...NO. Developing policy and then training once a year is not enough.

This article concludes with 15 important questions. If you cannot answer yes to these questions your agency is not fully ready for an active shooter school response.

1. Provide threat level 3 ballistic vest with breaching tools fastened to them in patrol units. Yes__ No__
2. Smaller agencies that respond with surrounding departments train together. Yes__ No__
3. Surrounding agencies protocols/policies match to assist in training and during a response. Yes__ No__
4. Mutual aid channel that all responding agencies use during a response. Yes__ No__
5. Train using this channel. Yes__ No__
6. Training checklist Yes__ No__
7. Train with school officials to include training sessions where schools are put into lockdown requiring officers to breach to enter areas of the campus. Yes__ No__
8. Practice cold, warm and hot zones with medical/fire personnel. Yes__ No__
9. Mandatory training for all personnel semi-annually. Yes__ No__
10. Anyone who does not receive onsite annual training must view and sign off on all training materials/policies. Yes__ No__
11. Annual review of all policies, training materials and equipment inventory with school officials to update or amend as needed. Yes__ No__
12. Utilize the federal 1033 program for equipment such as threat level vest and ballistic shields and other equipment. Yes__ No__
13. All equipment listed in your policy is readily available to every officer. Yes__ No__
14. Master keys, key cards and key codes are available to officers. Yes__ No__
15. SROs are actively involved in training and policy. Yes__ No__

This list is not exhaustive but should serve as an excellent resource for agencies to ensure that their policy and training is thorough and, more importantly, their officers are ready to respond.

We can all hope and pray that we never experience another Uvalde, but law enforcement has the responsibility to continually train as if they will.

Questions or comments on this article can be emailed to Terry Sanders at tsanders@almonline.org ■

Sources: <https://losscontrol.org/images/RiskManagementSolutionsNewsletters/Summer-2018-Risk-Management-Solutions.pdf>;

<https://www.fox26houston.com/news/uvalde-timeline-texas-dps>; <https://www.npr.org/2022/07/17/1111928866/uvalde-school-shooting-report>

Storing Liquids - Flammable and Combustible

Wade Campbell, GSP • Loss Control Representative • AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division

Flammable and combustible liquids are present in nearly every workplace. Gasoline, diesel fuel and many common products like solvents, thinners, cleaners, adhesives, paints and polishes may be flammable or combustible. Flammable and combustible liquids play a part in our lifestyle. However, if used or stored improperly, serious fires and death may occur. This article discusses flammable and combustible liquid handling and storage practices along with the different hazards that these substances pose to workers.

- 1. Almost every business and home contain some flammable and combustible liquids like gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, solvents or propane**
 - Just because they are common doesn't mean they are not potentially dangerous
 - Vapors from these liquids can easily start a fire or explosion if they can contact an ignition source
 - It is important to read all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and follow all safety instructions on container labels and warnings
- 2. A Flash point is the minimum temperature at which a liquid forms a vapor above its surface in sufficient concentration that it can be ignited**
 - **Flammable liquids** have a flash point of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The lower the flash point, the more likely its vapors are to catch fire when exposed to an ignition source
 - **Combustible liquids** have a flash point at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - The *vapors* burn, not the *liquid* itself. The rate at which liquid produces flammable vapors depends on its vapor pressure
 - The vaporization rate increases as the temperature increases. Therefore, flammable and combustible liquids are more hazardous at elevated temperatures than at room temperature
 - Vapors from nearly all flammable and combustible liquids are heavier than air. If ventilation is inadequate, these vapors can settle and collect in low areas like sumps, sewers, pits, trenches and basements and can spread far from the liquid itself. If this vapor trail contacts an ignition source, the fire produced can flash back to the liquid
- 3. Store flammables and combustibles in proper areas and containers**
 - Take just what you need for a job and clean up spills immediately
 - Keep all ignition sources far from flammables and combustibles
 - Bond and ground containers when transferring these liquids from storage containers into portable containers
 - Always keep and move these liquids in covered containers
 - Use these liquids in well-ventilated areas. Use a fume hood or other appropriate exhaust ventilation system when handling flammable and combustible liquids in a manner that may produce an airborne hazard
 - Up to 5 gallons of flammable liquids can be stored in safety cans that meet OSHA and NFPA 30 requirements and Underwriters Lab standards including the following characteristics:
 - A spring-closing lid and spout cover
 - Venting devices that prevent hazardous vapor pressure buildup
 - Leakproof construction and corrosion resistance

Representative Cody Marcum joins the Loss Control Division



Cody Marcum joined the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation and Municipal Workers Compensation Fund Loss Control Division in October 2022. Before joining the Loss Control Division, he worked eight years within the fire service, earning the rank of Apparatus Operator. Cody holds various IFSAC and Pro Board certifications – fire inspections, hazardous materials technician and rescue technician – to include the disciplines of rope, confined space, structural collapse, vehicular/machinery extrication and trench rescue. Additionally, Cody served in

the United States Marine Corps from 2010-2018. He holds an undergraduate degree from Auburn University in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Public Safety from Liberty University. Cody and his wife, Nichole, have one son, Bryce.

It's Time for Workers Comp Payroll Audits

It is time for the annual payroll audits to be processed for 2022. Some MWCF members will be subject to an independent audit from Overland Solutions, and those members will be contacted to set up an appointment. Members who are not subject to the independent audit will be receiving an Audit Request Form in the mail. Please fill in this form according to the instructions provided and return as soon as possible to our underwriters at Millennium Risk Managers.

All audit information is due by March 31, 2023. If you have not received a request by January 31, 2023 or have any questions, please call Carla Thienpont at Millennium Risk Managers 1-888-736-0210.

Defining Moment: Adjuster or Appraiser?

What is the difference between an adjuster and an appraiser? The easiest way to remember is you generally use an appraiser prior to a claim and an adjuster after the claim has been made. However, to define the terms accurately, an “appraiser” performs a survey to determine a property’s insurable value, thus allowing underwriters to determine what premium to charge in order to cover that property. An “adjuster” or “claims adjuster”, on the other hand, is an individual employed by a property/casualty insurer to evaluate and investigate losses and determine the insurance proceeds that might be payable for the claim. It is possible, however, for an adjuster to sometimes consult an appraiser – who would be considered an expert in property valuations – to help determine the monetary value of a piece of property that was damaged as part of the claim. Therefore, you may see both when a claim is being processed.

Storing Liquids

continued

- All containers of flammable liquids should have a “Flammable Liquid” label
- OSHA has detailed regulations for flammable storage tanks and for storage of large quantities of flammable substances
- 4. **Follow safe work practices around flammables and combustibles**
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, chew gum, apply cosmetics, or store food, beverages or tobacco products in work areas where flammable and combustible liquids are being used
- Don’t smoke or light matches
- Keep open flames, hot work, and sparking tools away from them - even dropping a metal tool could cause a spark
- Have fire extinguishers handy wherever flammable or combustible materials are used
- Read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to understand the particular hazards and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the particular liquid you are using
- Some substances may be corrosive or have respiratory or other health hazards as well as being flammable
- Open bottles or carboys slowly and carefully, and wear PPE to guard hands, face and body from splashes and vapors/gases
- Wipe drips/residues from containers and work surface
- Put trash like oil rags in properly closed metal containers that are emptied daily
- Always remove/replace clothing that has become saturated with a flammable or combustible liquid - even a small amount can be hazardous
- Never use a passenger elevator for transporting flammable liquids
- Know the proper safety procedures to follow in case of a spill
- Wash hands before leaving the work area and prior to consuming food or beverages

In conclusion, to protect yourself it’s important to know the characteristics of any flammable and combustible liquids you use. Don’t ever become complacent just because you use them regularly - carelessness could cause a tragedy. ■

2023 SKIDCAR Schedule

Through an advanced, computer-controlled driver training vehicle known as the SKIDCAR System, trainees learn how to react quickly and safely to a range of hazardous driving conditions. Training is conducted throughout the state at a minimal cost. If you would like to schedule or host a SKIDCAR session in your area, please contact **Donna Wagner** at (334) 386-8125.



January 10 - 13	Montgomery	June 13 - 23	Thomasville
February 6 - 17	Orange Beach	August 8 - 18	Decatur
April 10 - 14	Phenix City	September 5 - 15	Birmingham
May 9 - 19	Hamilton	October 2 - 13	Oneonta

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- 5.058-DVD - Driving Safely in Winter Conditions
- 5.062-DVD - A DUI Story...What If?
- 5.063-DVD - Defensive Driving for Government Employees
- 5.067-DVD - Distracted Driving (Focus on Texting and Driving)
- 5.069-DVD - Defensive Driving: When Good Weather Goes Bad
- 7.044-DVD - Space Heaters
- 7.109-DVD - Working Safely in Cold Weather
- 7.130-DVD - Drowsy Driving: It's Your Wake Up Call
- 7.133-DVD - Resisting the Flu
- 10.016-DVD - COVID-19: Staying Safe at Work for Employees
- 10.017-DVD - COVID-19: Staying Safe at Work for Employers
- 18.002-DVD - Slip Sliding Away

Video/DVD requests to Sonya McCarley at: 334-262-2566, smccarley@almonline.org or FAX at 334-262-2809

Need Help Filing Work Comp Claims?

For step-by-step instructions, visit:

www.almwcf.org

Employment Practices Law Hotline

1-800-864-5324

Through a toll-free Employment Practices Law Hotline, members can be in direct contact with an attorney specializing in employment-related issues. When faced with a potential employment situation, the hotline provides a no-cost, 30-minute consultation.

www.losscontrol.org