

Emergency training/ Rooms were cleared within 20 minutes

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Participants gathered at the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office for a safety briefing prior to the exercise, and afterwards to discuss successes and areas for improvement identified during the training.



Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida (right) led the emergency training discussion and Aitkin Police Chief Tim Catlin (left) made safety observations during the exercise.

THE SCENARIO

During the exercise, real response from the participating agencies occurred, and the city street department blocked off the roads within a two block radius of the high school. The drill lasted approximately four hours.

All agencies participating in the mock active shooter exercise were instructed to carry on "in place" as they would on a normal workday. Meanwhile, seven mock gunshot victims positioned themselves in the high school media center, each wearing a card listing their injuries and mental status.

The mock shooter was positioned nearby, and the drill began with a loud speaker simulating the sound of live gunfire. "Code Red" was announced over the intercom, followed by the arrival of responding law enforcement officers. Once the threat of the shooter was eliminated

by law enforcement, first responders entered the media center.

A call was made to dispatch for Emergency Medical Services to provide an ambulance. Meanwhile, officers checked the mock victims and acted out necessary first aid based on the conditions listed on the cue cards.

The speaker began playing sounds of panicked screaming in the hallways. Law enforcement cleared each room in search of additional threats within 20 minutes before allowing EMS to safely enter the building.

Each mock victim was triaged based on the severity of their injuries. The fire department arrived and was escorted by law enforcement up to the media center to aid in transporting victims on stretchers to the awaiting ambulances.

Within 35 minutes of the start of the drill, ambulances had begun trans-



The mock gunshot victims were posed in the Aitkin High School media center. Responders from the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department and the Aitkin City Police were first on the scene to call for Emergency Medical Services.

porting all mock victims to the nearest medical facility, Riverwood Healthcare Center. Hospital Emergency Room staff then determined whether to transport

mock victims via North Memorial Augusta 109 Grand helicopter to the nearest available trauma care center in St. Cloud, the Metropolitan or Duluth.



The acting victims wore cards indicating their injuries and mental state.

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EMS crews checked vitals and instructed the mock victim to apply pressure to the gunshot wound to his jaw while stretchers arrived. The victim was given a blanket for shock.

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