

Tips for Campus Security Essentials to School Threat Response

Preventing, detecting, and appropriately responding to campus threats should be second nature. Most shooting attacks can only be prevented in the planning stages because on the day of “execution” it is nearly impossible. Stopping a shooter in the early stages is a challenge requiring that friends, family, and associates recognize and report an attacker’s “red flag behavior” and that authorities investigate and intervene in a timely basis. If prevention and detection practices fail, then effective response is critical and needs to be second nature to reduce fatalities. Effective response requires that students, staff, and security personnel have pre-established and well-rehearsed procedures.

A School’s Emergency Response Plan should include procedures and practices for prevention, detection, and response to campus shootings. Here are some tips as well as issues to consider when developing the plan:

- Assess threats and vulnerabilities for a plan that addresses prevention, detection, and response
- Train everyone on the plan by groups: students, faculty, security, etc
- Practice the plan and continuously update the plan using lessons learned from previous incidents.
- Ensure everyone knows how to recognize and appropriately respond to suspicious acts and behavior that correlate to “pre-incident shooter behaviors.”
- Use simple positive language in the plan and in training such as “respond” instead of “react” - it reinforces positive behaviors that increase ability to succeed.
- Increase the use of security technology, use layered security, redundant measures, and random measures in your overall security program.
- Training students, faculty, staff, and security personnel on their individual roles under different threat conditions is critical. Ensuring everyone knows when a crisis is in progress where to go and what to do, as well as what not to do.
- Develop a good communication system with escalation levels of duress and response that alert students either by intercom, sirens, email, instant messaging, or a toll free number recording - to stay away, shelter in place, or seek cover.

Schools that already have a campus-wide alarm or speaker system used for natural disaster warnings such as tornados, hurricanes, fire etc may be converted to use a separate audible sound for shooter incidents. This will not only alert students, campus wide, but may also stop what is in progress and cause the “shooter” to flee before completing their intended deeds. We may think security technology and more security guards are the solution but it is misleading to think that it will prevent other incidents from happening.” Security technology is a tool for prevention through “deterrence.” Detection can easily be circumvented and is only as good as the human’s ability to detect. If someone is driven to do harm, they will find a way to make it happen. In such cases, the only viable approach is to reduce the number of casualties through education, training, and effective response procedures.

As a community service, Advantage SCI is presenting a free seminar on “Campus Security Essentials” to Campus security leaders in the Los Angeles South Bay area during the months of May, June, and July 2007. RSVP and Pre-Registration is required to attend - seating is limited.

Seminar will be presented in El Segundo, CA from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM on:

May 3, 2007
May 31, 2007
June 14, 2007
June 28, 2007
July 17, 2007
July 31, 2007

Interested participants can request seminar information by sending an email to info@advantagesci.com with Campus Security Seminar on the Subject line or submit the registration form below.

**Registration Form
Campus Security Essentials**

Seminar Date_____

First and Last Name_____

Title/Position_____

Organization or School_____

Address:

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email Address_____

Participant Knowledge of campus security: Novice____ Mid Level____ Expert____

**Seating is limited and seminar is restricted to security leaders of universities, colleges, and academic institutions, and only one participant per organization.

Submit this form by FAX 310-943-2351 or email to info@advantagesci.com; subject line: Campus Security Seminar.

You will be contacted to confirm your registration and seminar address will be provided at that time.