

# Surge of Violence

By: John-Isaac Chadwell

In the wake of the most recent tragedy in Connecticut, as well as the other random shootings in the last couple of weeks in Oregon, Las Vegas, Orange County California, and Texas, we all are dismayed about of this senseless violence. It seems that we're all searching for answers to the same questions—*why?*

This form of violence is not a new occurrence, but it is on everyone's mind in the light of the numerous shootings this year. Since writing my article about the *Active Shooter* crisis in July of 2012, there have been 10 high-profile shootings across the nation.

The active shooter threat was brought to all of our attention on April 20, 1999, through the Columbine tragedy. The active shooter is a difficult topic for anyone to fully comprehend as there are so many variables to each one; and the active shooter can rarely be predicated without warning indicators and "red flags."

The bigger task as a society is finding solutions for this reoccurring problem. Whether it is tackling mental health issues, efficient mitigation strategies, gun control, media control, or the glorification of violence in entertainment, there needs to be a concentrated effort for awareness and training.

Once the shooter is on scene and shots are fired, they have committed to their actions and they will not stop until they are dead, out of ammunition, or stopped by law enforcement or civilians.

There are several known contributing facts for these senseless acts of violence; some being: ideology, economy, revenge, mental illness, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse. As a society, we will never be able to fully prevent these acts of violence, but we can better prepare our employees and loved ones to react and to develop the survival mindset that just might save their lives.

If anything, Columbine, Aurora, Fort Hood, and Connecticut have taught us is that an assailant can strike at any time and at any place. Statistics have shown that when immediate action is taken against the perpetrator the loss of life is dramatically reduced. That may seem like a commonsense statistic, but this one is in regards to *civilians* taking action against the shooter, prior to first responders arriving.

There are several vital questions that should be asked about your business. What are your mitigation methods to protect your personnel and clients against workplace violence? Does your Emergency Action Plan have an active shooter contingency element? What is your backup plan?

When I pose these questions to attendees of my classes, the majority of them does not have an answer or are even aware of the elements of their company's Emergency Action Plans.

We tend to be a post-reactive society, making vital changes after tragedies. Employee training on workplace violence and the active shooter is essential to educate personnel on the causes of workplace violence, warning indicators, ramifications, communication, and determent. In a crisis situation, seconds count and the response of trained individuals could make all the difference.

For information on receiving the 'Active Shooter Training,' contact:

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