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Technical Report: How to Develop and Implement An Active Shooter/Armed Assailant Plan

A Technical Report prepared by ASSP and registered with ANSI

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

ASSP Technical Report

How to Develop and Implement An Active Shooter/Armed Assailant Plan

A Technical Report prepared
by the American Society of Safety Professionals

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Foreword

This technical report is intended to provide guidance in the development and initiation of a site security plan designed to address an active shooter/armed assailant scenario. Numerous active shooter/armed assailant incidents have occurred globally at various workplaces, such as manufacturing facilities, educational and healthcare institutions, sports and entertainment events and religious gatherings. These types of attacks spread fear and panic and can result in significant losses.

Safety professionals manage risk within their organization. Given the increased frequency of active shooter/armed assailant events, ASSP recognizes there is potential risk for a safety professional to face this type of event sometime in their career. In addition, since security also falls under the responsibility of the safety professional, it is prudent for ASSP to provide guidance on this topic for its members. As a profession, we manage risk for our respective organizations. Recognizing that security and the problem of dealing with an active shooter/armed assailant scenario is a potential risk a safety professional may handle, efforts were taken to conduct research to determine what guidance currently exists. Currently, established standards were not identified that provide appropriate expert guidance suitable for the safety profession.

This report provides guidelines on how to develop an emergency response plan dealing with the active shooter/armed assailant scenario and how to best initiate such a plan. Guidance includes prudent measures on how to conduct exercises, protect facilities, train employees in administrative controls and involve outside resources in the planning and response.

Publication of this Technical Report that has been registered with ANSI has been approved by the American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP), 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. This document is registered as a Technical Report according to the “Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports” with ANSI. This document is not an American National Standard and the material contained herein is not normative in nature. Comments on the content of this document should be sent to ASSP, 520 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068.

This document is registered as a Technical Report in the Z590 series of publications according to the “Procedures for the Registration of ANSI Technical Reports” and the ANSI/ASSP “Safety Operating Procedures.”

This technical report was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Z590 American National Standards Committee. Approval of the technical report does not necessarily imply (nor is it required) that all canvass members voted for its approval. At the time ANSI approved this technical report, the Z590 Active Shooter had the following canvass body members:

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1. Scope and Purpose

1.1 Scope

This technical report provides guidance for plan development for various workplaces, such as manufacturing facilities, educational and healthcare institutions, sports and entertainment events and religious gatherings on the subject of an active shooter/armed assailant attack.

1.2 Purpose

This report addresses the development of an active shooter/armed assailant plan, including:

- how to initiate the plan
- how to conduct exercises to test the plan
- environmental measures that can be taken at facilities to enhance security
- and involvement of outside resources to respond to active shooter/armed assailant scenarios

2. References

ANSI/ASSP Z590.3, *Prevention through Design*

Department of Homeland Security, *Active Shooter; How to Respond*

Department of Homeland Security, *Ready.gov*

3. Definitions

Active Shooter/Armed Assailant. An armed assailant enters a site with the intention to disrupt, cause fear, bodily harm and loss of life. The assailant's use of weapons is not limited to firearms.

Administrative Controls. Non-engineering controls that can be put in place to address risks present on a site. Examples include: procedures, policies, training and signage.

Command Center. The location on a site that has been identified as the place where the communications and command of the emergency response efforts should be coordinated and handled.

Engineering Controls. Physical controls such as fencing, video surveillance, remote controlled doors, badge entry systems, walls and other types of hardware systems that are meant to enhance security to a facility typically by controlling access to buildings and grounds.

Environmental Hardening. The physical security barriers that are put in place on a site to restrict entry or movement or systems to monitor entry or movement.

Hierarchy of Controls. The philosophical approach of first attempting to eliminate or substitute for hazards or risks identified, if this does not work to engineer out the hazard or risk with an engineering control, and if this does not work to apply administrative soft controls to address the hazard or risk.