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Weekly Safety Tip

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SCI Safety Tip: Can Risk Terrain Modeling Predict Active Shooter Events?

By Jennifer Busick

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

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More than 100 Americans die each year in active shooter events—and almost all active shooter events occur in somebody’s workplace, even if the intended victims are not employees. It’s a difficult risk to address, because active shooter events are largely random. Aren’t they? It would be difficult to predict with any certainty where one could occur. Wouldn’t it? Maybe not.

A recently developed law enforcement tool, risk terrain mapping, may be able to predict, at least to some degree, what workplaces are more likely to experience an active shooter event.

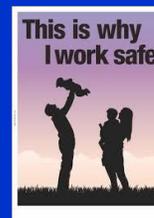
Predicting Violence

Traditional methods of preventing and controlling active shooter situations tend to focus on site security and on identifying personal risk factors for violence. Risk terrain mapping takes a different approach. Similar to the practice of “hot-spot mapping,” in which law enforcement agencies plot crimes and other indicators on detailed local maps to identify “hot spots” where crimes frequently take place.

Hot-spot mapping works well for crimes that occur frequently in the same area, like robberies; it is less useful for predicting infrequent



SCI Safety Slogan



James Lehrke-SCI

crimes like active shooter events. Oddly, the research has shown that hot-spot mapping may actually predict locations where active shooter events are *less* likely; shooters seem to avoid identified criminal “hot spots,” either out of a perception that increased police presence or security measures are likely to be present in those areas or because they deliberately choose areas that people think of as safe in order to maximize the suffering they inflict.



Risk Factors

Risk terrain mapping predicts crime by plotting location risk factors on a map, much the same way that hot-spot modeling plots arrests and other incidents on a map. The risk factors used in risk terrain mapping include:

- *Nonresidential location density.* Active shooters generally target locations that are significant sources of stress for them—most of the time, that means either the workplace or a school. In addition, shooters usually want to inflict as much suffering as possible before they die, so they will choose locations with a higher population density that offer convenient secondary targets.
- *Location type.* Businesses and schools are higher risk locations; therefore, they are weighted more heavily than other locations on a risk terrain map. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), 70% of active shooter events occur in either schools or businesses—places that, according to the American Psychological Association, are major sources of stress for 70% of people.
- *Distance from police stations.* Most active shooters are suicidal. Some take their own lives; others seem incapable of suicide and simply keep shooting until they are killed by police. Distance from police stations has predictive value in anticipating active shooter situations.

Minimizing the Damage

Another factor with predictive value for active shooter situations is the “copycat” factor; active shooter events with three or more casualties tend to inspire copycats. For this reason, stopping the shooter with minimal casualties is important because it can reduce the likelihood of such violence in other places. If you take steps to better protect your workplace against active shooters, you reduce not only your risk but others’ risk as well.

OSHA Compliance: Workplace Violence

Source: <http://www.osha.gov>

Starting in January 2018 SCI will offer workplace violence training including active shooter with role-playing and also bomb threat training. SCI will be offering many services related to security. Let us evaluate your facility! Is your business at risk of workplace violence?



Overview

This workplace violence website provides information on the extent of violence in the workplace, assessing the hazards in different settings and developing workplace violence prevention plans for individual worksites.

What is workplace violence?

Workplace violence is any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening disruptive behavior that occurs at the work site. It ranges from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults and even homicide. It can affect and involve employees, clients, customers and visitors. Homicide is currently the fourth-leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), of the 4,679 fatal workplace injuries that occurred in the United States in 2014, 403 were workplace homicides. [[More...](#)] However it manifests itself, workplace



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Quick Tips for Healthy Living

Prevent Community Associated MRSA

Fall athletics are gearing up and practice will soon be starting. This is a great time to remind everyone about the importance of hand washing and locker room hygiene. Most of you have heard of athlete's feet, ringworm and plantar warts and know how to avoid getting them.

But did you know about *methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)? It is popping up in many areas such as fitness centers, gyms and locker rooms. This bacteria is spread by skin-to-skin contact and often begins like a painful skin boil. It is resistant to many antibiotics and requires special treatment.

To protect yourself, avoid sharing towels, razors, uniforms, and other items that touch your skin. Be sure to disinfect locker rooms and equipment on a regular basis to prevent the spread of this nasty bacterium.

violence is a major concern for employers and employees nationwide.

Who is at risk of workplace violence?

Nearly 2 million American workers report having been victims of workplace violence each year. Unfortunately, many more cases go unreported. Research has identified factors that may increase the risk of violence for some workers at certain worksites. Such factors include exchanging money with the public and working with volatile, unstable people. Working alone or in isolated areas may also contribute to the potential for violence. Providing services and care, and working where alcohol is served may also impact the likelihood of violence. Additionally, time of day and location of work, such as working late at night or in areas with high crime rates, are also risk factors that should be considered when addressing issues of workplace violence. Among those with higher-risk are workers who exchange money with the public, delivery drivers, healthcare professionals, public service workers, customer service agents, law enforcement personnel, and those who work alone or in small groups.

How can workplace violence hazards be reduced?

In most workplaces where risk factors can be identified, the risk of assault can be prevented or minimized if employers take appropriate precautions. One of the best protections employers can offer their workers is to establish a zero-tolerance policy toward workplace violence. This policy should cover all workers, patients, clients, visitors, contractors, and anyone else who may come in contact with company personnel.

By assessing their worksites, employers can identify methods for reducing the likelihood of incidents occurring. OSHA believes that a well-written and implemented workplace violence prevention program, combined with engineering controls, administrative controls and training can reduce the incidence of workplace violence in both the private sector and federal workplaces.

This can be a separate workplace violence prevention program or can be incorporated into a safety and health program, employee handbook, or manual of standard operating procedures. It is critical to ensure that all workers know the policy and understand that all claims of workplace violence will be investigated and remedied promptly. In addition, OSHA encourages employers to develop additional methods as necessary to protect employees in high risk industries.

We'd always like your feedback. Let us know what articles you'd like to see!

In Loving Memory...
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