



Talking to Your Emergency Manager About Active Shooter Preparedness

Don't drop a 60-page binder on their desk. Just have a conversation. Here are a few key points to help you get the ball rolling on a shared, jurisdiction-wide response plan.

1 The Reality on the Ground

- **The risk is everywhere:** All communities face the same threat. Those who know the risk exists and fail to prepare for it will have to answer to their community for that failure.
- **Co-ordination:** No single agency can fix the problem alone. This is a community problem and requires a community wide approach.
- **When it happens, it'll be chaotic:** An active attack means massive mutual aid. If all those incoming entities aren't working from the exact same playbook, the response is likely to fail.

2 Why Emergency Management is the Missing Piece

- **Purpose:** Getting multiple disciplines and jurisdictions to coordinate and solve public safety problems is exactly what emergency management does.
- **Plan:** Emergency Managers have developed relationships with key decision makers. They use those relationships every day to build, train, and implement emergency response plans.
- **Funding:** Emergency Managers are more familiar with the grant funding process than any other entity.

3 The "Ask"

- **Bring people to the table:** Build a coalition of law enforcement, fire, EMS, and elected officials to reach a consensus.
- **Own the plan:** Take the lead in developing and maintaining a county wide response plan.
- **Find the funding:** Leverage experience and skill to find the money to pay for cross-agency training and keep the program running.

BOTTOM LINE

No one agency can solve this problem in a vacuum. Go to your Emergency Manager, tell them you need their help, and ask them to do what they do best so you have a solution in place **before** the incident happens.