

Students practice for active shooter

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Byline: By GRACE WARNER
Logan Daily News Reporter

Content

LOGAN — Sirens raced in one-by-one to the Logan-Hocking Middle School parking lot as students, staff and first responders all practiced what would be an active shooter scenario on Thursday afternoon.

As a part of a statewide requirement, the middle school and Green Elementary participated in how to respond in such a situation, whether the shooter is inside or outside the building.

According to an article published by CNN on May 25, there were 23 school shootings by that time, which amounts to more than one a week.

Kelly Wolfe, a seventh grade math teacher, stated that he thinks the shooting at Virginia Tech was one where a lot of information was learned on how to handle situations like this.

“A lot of the training us teachers have had, there’s a lot of references to Virginia Tech and how they responded because when you look at that, even the college kids at the college level were doing exactly what they we’re trained to do in high school — go sit in a corner and that’s what they did. I think that was one where they realized, ‘okay we need to start training our kids differently’,” stated Wolfe.

Monte Bainter, Superintendent of Logan-Hocking Schools, said there’s a confidential school safety plan in place that they practice for situations like these and on smaller scales.

Bainter noted they started the large-scale drills last spring with the high school.

“It’s a drill where, not only can we practice internally with our staff and our kids so they know what to do, but it’s also practice for first responders,” he said, noting that first responders didn’t know what time this drill would be happening.

Scott Brooker, Hocking County EMS Chief, explained the process of how they quickly respond to victims in a real situation.

“They (EMS) do quick triage, they do quick interventions, they move onto the next person. Once they establish how many patients, then another team will go in and start moving those patients to the causality collection point and then we’ll have other teams go in and actually move from the causality collection point to the tarp transport area,” remarked Brooker.

The tarp transport area set in front of the middle school where ambulances lined up one-by-one ready to pick up a patient and transport them to the nearest hospital as quickly as possible.

Brooker explained that if this were a real scenario they would have neighboring county ambulances lined up and ready for transport, along with Hocking’s.

After both buildings were secured and safe, all the first responders gathered in the school to debrief and talk about what they needed to improve upon and what they did well.

“The great thing is the dialogue between all the stakeholders, that’s where it has to be — and the kids feel safe. I can never guarantee 100 percent safety, no one can do that anywhere you are, but we can do everything we can and these types of drills are a step in that direction,” continued Bainter.

Chad Grow, the seventh and eighth grade principle, noted that they prepared students on Monday and Tuesday for what was to come.

“We went over a whole presentation with them of what possibilities could happen, but we didn’t know whether it was going to be an active shooter, a fire, a bomb threat or anything like that and we went over every scenario with students so that they’re aware,” explained Grow.

Grow continued stating that both students and staff had questions about how to navigate each situation and replied with, “you have to respond how you would in that situation and then that’s why we do it, we practice and we learn from it and we hope to do better.”

Major Caleb Moritz, Hocking County Sheriff Office, noted that everyone did a great job but areas to improve upon would be staging locations around the school and better communication, but nothing major.

“I believe today went relatively well, it showed some areas that we need to address, which is why we do these — why we do the drill. But it was a great cooperative effort between us, the police department, the state highway patrol, the firemen and EMS,” Moritz noted.

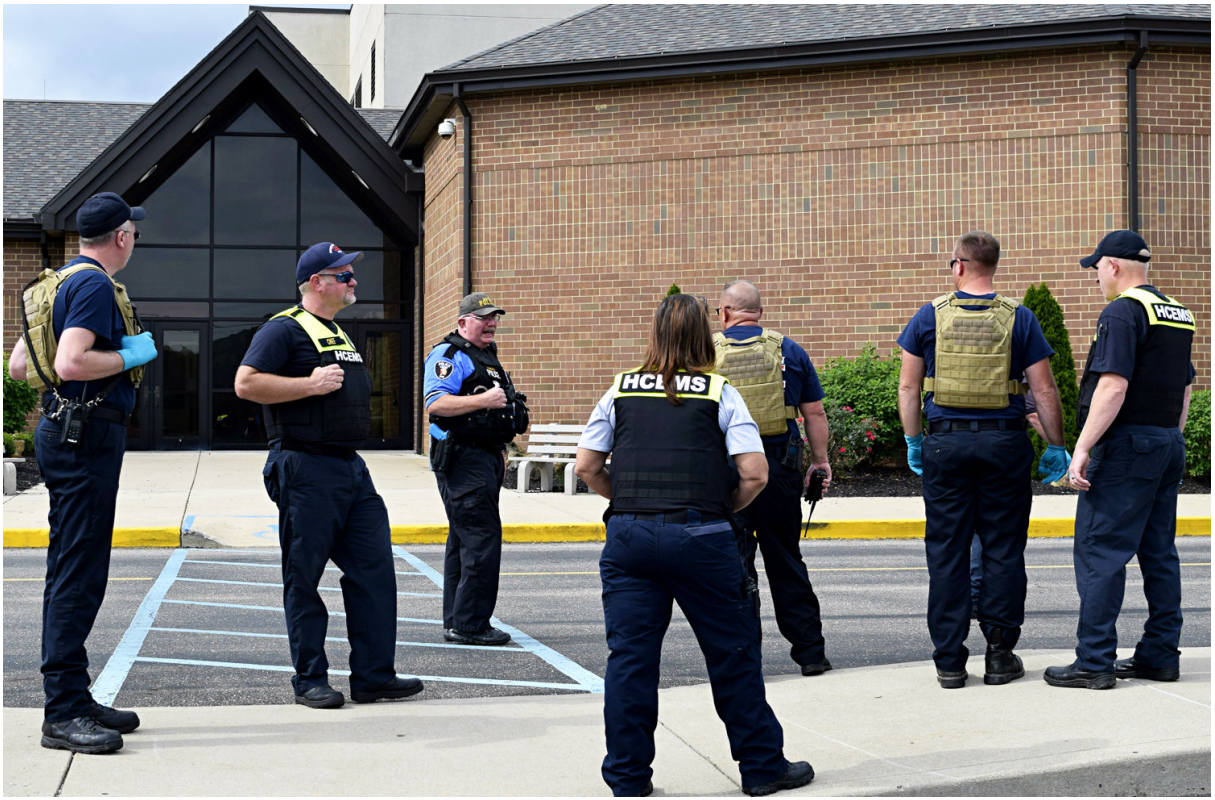
For an active shooter scenario the school has a military person come in and play the shooter. During debriefing Grow said the actor didn’t see students or staff, which is a good sign, meaning they followed their training.

Child images

Active shooter drill



Active shooter drill



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