



New Mexico Tech

NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

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Special 2011 Newsletter

Safety Awareness Special Article

I am sure that most all of you are aware of the shooting that happened at a California quarry recently. Excerpts from the news read:

Shareef William Allman, 47, is believed to have shot nine employees at the Lehigh Southwest Cement Co. plant and quarry near Cupertino on Wednesday. Two died at the scene of the shooting in a trailer/breakroom during an early morning shift-change safety meeting at the quarry and a third person died at the hospital.

Said an employee at the scene, "He went down the line of people sitting at the table. He assumed a shooter's stance and picked them off as he went down."

In our world of mining safety, it is hard to plan for all contingencies. Some, like an active shooter in our workplace are difficult to comprehend and believe that it could happen here. It has happened in New Mexico. In July of 2010 at Encore Manufacturing in Albuquerque, an active shooter murdered 2 and wounded 4 other of Encore's employees. Nationally in 2008, 10% of workplace deaths were due to workplace violence.

Some mining companies in NM are planning for this contingency. BHPBilliton's Navajo mine included an active shooter scenario in their 2010 MERD exercise. I encourage all mining operations, large and small, to make emergency management plans that include Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for workplace violence and to educate your workforce on recognizing potential workplace violence.

There is a lot of good basic information available. A good start is a Department of Homeland Security article found at:

http://www.alerts.si.edu/docs/DHS_ActiveShooterBook.pdf

This article is titled, Active Shooter How to Re-

spond.

A sample EAP from a county plan is reprinted below:

ACTIVE SHOOTER / VIOLENT PERSON

The purpose of this annex is to provide guidance for _____ County Employees and others that work at the _____ County _____ Court in the event of an active shooter situation or armed intruder.

I. Any employee upon becoming aware of an act of violence in progress at the County Complex should immediately go to a phone, in a safe location, and call 911 (**9-911 if calling from the County Court Phone System**), or the Sheriff's Department, and report the incident. The caller should be prepared to furnish the following information.

- Your name
- Your exact location, Department, Room number, Floor number
- What you have heard, seen, or has been reported to you
- Are firearms involved, if so have shots been fired
- Description of weapon or firearm, if known (i.e. hand held or long gun)
- Words or verbal threats you have overheard, if any
- The exact location of the violence
- How many people are involved, and descriptions, if known
- Stay on the line, if you can do so safely, as you may be of assistance to responding law enforcement.

II. If you can escape the area of the violence or threat, safely, then do so. If the violent situation is not occurring in your work area, lockdown your work area, turn the lights off, stay out of sight of interior windows and await instructions from law enforcement officers. Advise others in your area to do the same. **HELP IS ON THE WAY**, law enforcement officers are trained and have a plan to address this emergency situation.

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III. Do not close blinds or shades on exterior windows. A sign should be posted on exterior windows depicting the room number or office name, if it can be done safely. This will assist law enforcement in referencing your area from outside the building.

IV. If a firearm is dropped by the shooter, leave it; DO NOT PICK IT UP. This non-action will assist responding law enforcement officers, in not confusing you with the shooter.

V. Employees should immediately, after reaching a safe location, write down what they heard or witnessed during the event, law enforcement will request this information.

This is just one example and I am sure that numerous mines in NM or nationally have a plan included in their EAP that they would share.

There is a good YouTube video on what to do in a shooting scenario found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2tIeRUbRHw>

I hesitate to mention this, but acts of violence are often repeated by copycats. After the Virginia Tech shooting there were several other campus acts of violence in a short timeframe.

Every workplace, including our NM mines, should plan, educate and act. We all hope it will never happen, but we should prepare for this emergency just like we prepare for a mine fire or entrapment.

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