

## Safety Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2013,

At the Community Forum there were questions about preparedness training as a community (not just schools). It was pointed out that the **Vermont Emergency Management website contains good information.**

K. Brayton from the Community Justice Center described the screening process used and concurred that substance abuse is the underlying reason for theft and other crimes.

Lt. Garey demonstrated how to navigate the Town's website. He also demonstrated CrimeReports which informs citizens what's happening in their neighborhood.

Lt Hollwedel had spoken with police in **Newtown, CN** and reported to the committee what he had learned.

The following consensus is from Newtown's safety committees:

- People see odd behavior but don't report it – if you see, you have to report. The perpetrator at Newtown was obsessed with the Finland shooting incident and talked about it constantly.
- A window was used to gain access
- Something needs to be done with gun control
- After school – buzzer is used to let people in for activities as well
- All schools seem to be going with full time police officers and safety officers
- Teachers or administrators should not try to step in as barrier. It's better to step away, alert others as to what's happening. One teacher at Newtown saved lives by thinking quickly and going into the bathroom with the children.

Hollwedel reiterated that such events happen very quickly. People have to train regularly to react immediately without a second thought.

B. Larose presented some data regarding the 67 shootings that have occurred in recent years:

- 57% of the shooters came in through the main entrance
- 33% had exhibited some sort of red flag or their intent to was known by someone
- All but 3 were male perpetrators

M. Andrews stated the need for more training on determining risks. He expected that Howard Mental Health or Department of Children and Families could help in this area.

Although no single profile exists for school shootings, trainings do exist for recognizing some red flags.

One documented fact is that School Resource Officers need to be a part of the school not a visitor.

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New construction should give lots of thought to new school main entrances for 21<sup>st</sup> century safety.

**There was consensus that more deescalating training is needed.**

Hollwedel stated that early identification is critical – events happen within seconds. And, if there is any doubt, put safety procedures in place. If a staff member hears gunfire, they shouldn't wait for an administrator's voice – lockdown immediately and ask questions later.

The main goal is to slow down the shooter in order to give law enforcement time to get there.