First speaker in the meeting: Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel

Discussion centered on recent training sponsored by the FBI. “How do we look at active shooters?”

Often a shooter is motivated by a grievance. Police will respond accordingly to the ALICE program. Shooters generally have told other people about their plan 75% to 80% of the time and only in their limited social network which is very small. 49% of shooters usually have a mental illness and 70% have no criminal history. They generally plan for a long time. Information of a concerning or suspicious nature needs to be shared with law enforcement without delay. Law enforcement looks for key indicators. Aggressive reporting has led to successful interventions nation-wide. Many perpetrators use social media.

Schools are much better prepared now for acts of violence, primarily due to evacuation and lockdown plans. The Police department is planning to train more in schools. How responders and school staff train is how they will respond in a stressful situation.

The next presentation in the meeting was given by EMT Dan Manz.

Discussion focused on providing immediate first aid to trauma patients.

Nationally, there has been a lot of consideration regarding what is required for survival in trauma situation. It’s all about the ABCs. (A-Airway, B-Breathing, C-Circulation) When is it safe enough to let EMTs into a scene? Rapid, on-scene first aid to trauma victims quite often can save lives (est. 90%).

Examples of scenes were discussed: Serious violence with gunshot wounds, stabbings, explosions, etc., all with primary injuries and secondary injuries.

Time matters, and with very little equipment and training, we can: manage a restricted airway, stop serious bleeding, or seal an open chest wound.

Hands-on training then followed. This training included the use of tourniquets, clearing an airway manually or by body positioning, and sealing “sucking” chest wounds.

Essex Rescue offered to bring first aid training to the schools.

Mark your calendar: April 29 community dialog night at Essex High School.