



# School Safety Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 11

June 2018

## Parkland Gunman Carried Out Rampage Without Entering A Single Classroom

New York Times, April 24, 2018

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/24/us/parkland-shooting-reconstruction.html>

MIAMI — Armed with an AR-15 assault rifle and more than 300 rounds of ammunition, Nikolas Cruz killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in February without entering a single classroom.

Instead, Mr. Cruz, a former Stoneman Douglas High student, carried out his carnage by walking down the hallways of the freshman building and taking aim at students and teachers trapped in the corridors or locked inside classrooms. Several times, he returned to victims he had already wounded to shoot them dead.

That was the chilling narrative that law enforcement provided on April 24, 2018, in a minute-by-minute animation of Mr. Cruz's movements through the school, the first time the police made public a detailed timeline of the gunman's actions inside the building. The animation, played for members of a Florida commission investigating the mass shooting, showed that the gunman had time to pursue victims on all three floors of the building during his six-minute rampage.

At no point during the shooting did police officers enter the building or engage the gunman, even though there was an armed deputy from the Broward County Sheriff's Office outside less than two minutes after the shooting began, and several other officers heard gunfire after they arrived. The law enforcement response is expected to be closely reviewed by a special public safety commission created by the Florida Legislature last month. Among its 16 members are three fathers of students killed in the shooting.

The commission's first meeting, held on Tuesday in Coconut Creek, about 15 minutes from the school, laid bare a number of other areas under review. Emergency calls did not go to a single agency: The 911 emergency system sent cellphone calls from inside the school to the Coral Springs Fire Department, but landline calls from worried parents to the Broward Sheriff's Office. The police radio system became overloaded during the response, forcing officers to use hand signals to indicate which classrooms had been cleared. And teachers could not lock their classroom doors from the inside.

"The teacher had to go out into the hallway and take the key and try to lock the door. That's messed up no matter how you slice it," said Sheriff Bob Gualtieri of Pinellas County, the commission chairman. On the police radio problems, he added: "You had commanders that were going from car to car to car, from radio to radio to radio, trying to get on it."

"We've got some hard questions that need to be answered," he added. "Nobody here thinks it's going to be easy."

The animation, based on surveillance video and witness statements, showed floor plans, with dots to represent people. Victims appeared as green dots that turned yellow if they were injured and purple if they were killed.

According to the animation, there were two sets of fatal victims: 11 on the first floor, who were attacked so quickly that they could hardly take cover, and six on the third floor, many of whom were leaving their classrooms thinking a fire drill was underway. The gunfire created smoke that set off the fire alarm, contrary to early reports that suggested the gunman might have pulled the alarm himself to wreak chaos.

Students on the second floor knew to ignore the alarm and stay indoors because they heard the shots, the police said. The sound of gunfire apparently did not reach the third floor, and the students and teachers there had no way of distinguishing between a fire drill, which required evacuating the building, and a "code red," which required seeking shelter.

"That led to my daughter also being murdered on the third floor," said Andrew Pollack, a commission member.

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## **Parkland Gunman Carried Out Rampage Without Entering A Single Classroom (Continued)**

He has said his 18-year-old daughter, Meadow, was shot nine times. The animation did not identify any of the victims. Mr. Pollack refused to refer to Mr. Cruz by name, instead calling him by his prison number, 181968.

On the first floor, the gunman shot from the door into classrooms 1214 and 1216, injuring or killing several victims, and later returned to the doors of both classrooms to hurt more people. One victim who entered the building during the shooting managed to take cover after being injured, but Mr. Cruz eventually found him and killed him.

Mr. Cruz fired from the hallway into two second-floor classrooms, the animation showed, but did not hit anyone.

On the third floor, Mr. Cruz fired indiscriminately into people assembled in the hallway, injuring several of them before turning his back and pausing, apparently to reload his weapon, said Detective Zack Scott, one of the lead homicide investigators on the case. That allowed a number of people to try to escape down a stairwell. Once the gunman realized they were getting away, he shot at them again, killing at least two of them. Four injured people remained in the hallway; he went back and killed three of them.

Sheriff Larry Ashley of Okaloosa County, a commission member, said the animation reminded him of a video game: “How many kills can I get?”

The gunman shot his way into a locked teachers’ lounge and tried to set up a sniper position from the windows, aiming at students rushing outside in what they thought was a fire drill. For about three minutes, he shot round after round into the glass — but they were hurricane-resistant windows. “The rounds fragment and splinter immediately, and they do not find targets,” Detective Scott said.

Outside, several sheriff’s deputies arrived on campus after reports of shots fired, but they could not determine where they were coming from. At least two officers from the Coral Springs Police Department did realize the shooting was taking place inside the freshman building, but did not enter. One of them, Bryan Wilkins, said in a firsthand account released on Tuesday that he was advised “by an unknown BSO Deputy taking cover behind a tree, ‘he is on the third floor.’”

Unlike the older buildings on the Stoneman Douglas High campus where classrooms line open-air hallways — resembling a motel — the freshman building was enclosed and allowed the gunman to operate without being observed from outside.

“There’s a reason why he picked Building 12, in my view,” Sheriff Gualtieri said of Mr. Cruz. “This was a unique building. He was unchallenged. Unfettered.”

The state commission, which has subpoena power, is expected to issue its findings and recommendations by Jan. 1. Commissioners plan to go to the campus to walk around the building and see the place where surveillance video showed that Deputy Scot Peterson, the school resource officer, took cover outside during the shooting, in apparent violation of protocol requiring that law enforcement try to confront an active shooter. Mr. Peterson resigned after Sheriff Scott Israel placed him under internal investigation eight days after the shooting. Several other deputies also are under investigation for failing to immediately enter the freshman building.

Sheriff Israel, who has defended his “amazing leadership” of the office, faces a nonbinding vote of no confidence on Thursday from the Broward Sheriff’s Office Deputies Association, a labor union that did not represent Mr. Peterson. The union president, Jeff Bell, cited the sheriff’s handling of the Parkland shooting as one of the reasons deputies have lost confidence in their leader. Sheriff Israel has dismissed the vote as a bargaining tactic from a union seeking a pay raise.

### **‘Active Shooter’ Video Game May Still See the Light of Day, Developer Says**

Fortune, May 31, 2018

<http://fortune.com/2018/05/31/active-shooter-video-game-may-still-be-released/>

The developer of Active Shooter, the video game that let players play as a school shooter, says he may still release the controversial title, despite its removal from Steam, the largest digital storefront for PC games.

Anton Makarevskiy, a 21-year old developer from Moscow, says he was surprised at the furor surrounding the game and he’s considering giving it away for free online, despite the protests from survivors and the families of victims.

“It’s not promoting violence, definitely no,” Makarevskiy told PC Magazine.

Active Shooter, which Valve Software removed from Steam earlier this week, describes itself as a simulation of an active shooter situation, where players can opt to be either the killer or the SWAT team tasked with neutralizing the situation. Screenshots from the game show attacks taking place in both an office and school environment.

Makarevskiy, though, says the game’s school setting levels exist only because the 3D model for them can be purchased by developers at an affordable price. And he believes the critics focusing on Active Shooter are ignoring the real issues behind the rash of tragedies in the U.S. this year. (On average, there has been nearly one school shooting per week in 2018.)

## **Monthly Webinars!**

**First Wednesday of Every Month**

**at 10 am**

**(Except January, July, and August).**

### **Next Webinars**

**Wednesday, September TBD, 2018**

Each webinar has a round table discussion at the end. Questions are always welcome!

To participate, you must be a vetted member. For more information please email [schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us)

## **'Active Shooter' Video Game May Still See the Light of Day, Developer Says (Continued)**

"From my point of view, they have to focus on the real issues rather than video games," he said.

Makarevskiy says he began work on Active Shooter two months ago as a way to escape a "crappy job" printing posters for businesses and events. He claims to have left the job to focus full time on game development right before Valve and Steam banned him from the service.

"He didn't think the game would be as controversial as it turned out to be," said Ata Berdyev, who translated for Makarevskiy in the interview and was also banned by Steam for his role in the game. "He doesn't like the idea of people fighting with each other over such a topic."

That's unlikely to win any sympathy among opponents, though. Ryan Petty, father of 14-year-old Alaina Petty, a 14-year-old who was slain during the fatal shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, called the game "disgusting" on Facebook, adding "keeping our kids safe is a real issue affecting our communities and is in no way a 'game.'"

### **Ready for a Shooter? 1 in 5 School Police Say No**

Education Week, June 5, 2018

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/06/06/ready-for-a-shooter-1-in-5.html>

One in five school police officers say their school is not prepared to handle an active-shooter situation, according to a nationally representative survey of school resource officers conducted by the Education Week Research Center.

And some school police report they haven't been adequately trained to work in schools. Some also say their schools don't set limits on their role in student discipline, which civil rights groups say is necessary to protect the rights of students.

School law enforcement officials say some officers will never feel fully prepared for an event like a shooting because they are always looking for ways to improve. They also have to balance the need to be ready for unlikely worst-case scenarios with the everyday duties of the job that requires them, most essentially, to build trust with students.

Nearly 400 school officers responded to the online survey administered by the Education Week Research Center in March and April, after a gunman killed 17 people in the February school shooting in Parkland, Fla., and before 10 people were killed in a May attack in a high school in Santa Fe, Texas.

Two high-casualty school shootings so close together have intensified debates about school safety, leading districts and governors to convene task forces and scrape together any funding they can find to upgrade security measures and ease the minds of anxious parents.

"Parkland did something to this country," said Bruce Copple, a school resource officer and safety director for the school district in Greensburg, Ind., "Even in our small community, Parkland did something."

In many places, the post-Parkland safety plans include more police in schools.

In Florida, state lawmakers rushed to respond to the Parkland shooting by passing a multi-pronged safety bill that included new gun restrictions and a requirement that every school campus in the state have at least one armed person on site—either a law enforcement officer or a staff member participating in a new state program. In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott released a plan that calls for schools to hire retired police and military members to work as school resource officers.

"The push, of course, is a result of school shootings, schools wanting to protect their facilities and students as well as they can," said Mo Canady, the executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, which provides training for school police. "We want to make sure that people understand the importance of selecting the right officers for these positions, making sure they are veteran officers, and making sure they are specially trained to work in a school environment."

Registrations for NASRO's annual conference are up about 25 percent this year, Canady said.

#### **Not Just 'Armed Guards'**

School resource officers who spoke to Education Week said they aren't surprised that one-fifth of survey respondents believe their schools are unprepared for an active shooter.

Officers say they weigh a range of factors when making that determination, including how well schools have trained teachers and other staff in safety protocols, how often students practice lockdown drills, whether students have strong relationships with adults at school, and whether physical security measures like cameras have been properly maintained.

Officers may feel unprepared if their schools have left them out of the safety planning process, Copple said.

"I think sometimes we have knee-jerk reactions to just put [armed] people in the building and say we're safe," he said. But school police officers should not be treated as armed guards with a limited role, he said. Rather, schools should consult them about

## Ready for a Shooter? 1 in 5 School Police Say No (Continued)

working with students, responding to threats and safety concerns, coordinating with first responders, and preparing buildings.

And even the most prepared officers must re-examine their plans after large school shootings, Coppie said. For example, Parkland students were fleeing the campus in response to a fire alarm when the shooting there started, complicating a building lockdown. That led Greensburg to review its fire alarm protocols, he said.

In Crocker, Mo., Officer Shawn Wright reviewed the safety plans for his small district, where students of all grades are taught in a single building. Wright has numbered the building's doors and windows to make it easier to share locations in a crisis situation, he's locked down building entrances during the school day so visitors can be more easily screened, and he's included bus drivers and administrative assistants in safety drills.

"We feel confident that if somebody tried to come into a school, we would be prepared for it," Wright said. "Now, are we going to be prepared for every situation? Absolutely not.... You're never going to find a perfectly safe situation, I don't care who you talk to."

The 600-student Crocker district has also discussed arming some staff, providing them training and special vests so that first responders could spot them in an emergency. Wright would not say if teachers or staff now carry guns, but he said there's a sign in front of the building that warns would-be intruders that staff members may be armed and "will do everything necessary to protect our students."

President Donald Trump has pushed for schools to arm more staff and teachers after the Parkland shooting, an idea that was widely panned by educator groups, and Gov. Abbott included calls to arm staff in his safety plan for Texas schools. Thirty-three percent of officers responding to the Education Week Research Center survey agreed that "training and arming a select group of teachers would make schools safer."

But officers who answered the survey were much more likely to link school law enforcement to safety: 88 percent agreed that their presence helped deter shootings, and 95 percent said having an armed officer on campus would serve to "minimize harm" in the event of a shooting.

### Confronting a Shooter

Many shootings have occurred at schools with on-site police, but those officers aren't always the first person to engage the shooter. Last month, students in a Noblesville, Ind., middle school say a teacher rushed to disarm a classmate who fired a gun in his classroom. That gunman seriously injured the teacher and a 13-year-old girl.

In March, the Washington Post analyzed every school shooting event since the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Examining 200 incidents, it found only one where a school officer gunned down an active shooter. But school police have taken an active role in intervening in several recent incidents, raising their profile in the school safety debate.

At the 1,400-student Santa Fe High School, two school resource officers were on duty when a 17-year-old student opened fire in an art room. One was seriously injured responding to the gunman.

On May 16, school resource officer Mark Dallas responded to the sound of gun shots in the gym at Dixon High School in Dixon, Ill., where students were rehearsing for graduation. He exchanged gunfire with a former student armed with a rifle, stopping the attack. Only the suspect was injured.

"Officer Dallas' bravery and quick action prevented what could have been an unimaginable tragedy," Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner said.

In Parkland, by contrast, families of slain students wonder what might have changed if an on-campus sheriff's deputy had entered the building to engage the gunman; security footage shows him standing outside during the attack.

### A Multi-Faceted Job

School shootings remain statistically rare events, but often lead to more school police. Though federal data show numbers of violent homicides in schools have stayed at roughly the same level in the years since Columbine, the share of schools with on-site officers has risen significantly. In the 2015-16 school year, 36 percent of primary schools and 65 percent of secondary schools reported the presence of an officer at least once a week, according to the most recent federal data.

But school police are much more likely to be seen monitoring a hallway between classes than responding to a school shooting. Civil rights groups say the role of law enforcement is counter to the purpose of schools, and they fear efforts to add more officers will lead to more punitive discipline. They are especially concerned about the treatment of nonwhite students and students with disabilities, who are arrested at school and referred to police at disproportionately high rates.

"The impulse to police school communities will not prevent further tragedies and will be counterproductive towards building safe, nurturing, and supportive learning environments," said a statement released by the Dignity in Schools Campaign, a coalition of civil rights and student groups, after the Parkland shooting. "We have to fundamentally rethink safety by centering the social, emotional, and mental health needs of young people and providing schools and communities with the resources and supports necessary to address the root causes of issues that are driving their pain, trauma and isolation."

Only 12 states require specialized training for officers who work the school beat, according to a 2015 study by the American Institutes for Research, which means some officers have little transition between patrolling city streets and monitoring school hallways. Civil rights and school policing groups agree that schools are unique environments, and that officers should be carefully selected and trained.

## **Ready for a Shooter? 1 in 5 School Police Say No (Continued)**

"We have to have that cop working the school that every other division of the police department wants," said Don Bridges, a school resource officer in Baltimore County, Md., and president of NASRO. "We have to have the brightest and best. This is, without question, the most challenging job in law enforcement."

Officers need to understand how to de-escalate conflicts with teens, who may be more impulsive than adults, he said. And they need to focus on relationships with students so that they feel at ease reporting safety concerns before they become problems, Bridges said.

Twenty-five percent of officers responding to the Education Week Research Center survey said they had no prior experience working with youth, and 19 percent said they had been given insufficient training to work in a school environment. While 93 percent said they'd been trained to respond to an active shooter, only 54 percent said they had been trained to work with special education students, who are protected by federal laws that prohibit discipline for behaviors related to diagnosed disabilities.

NASRO advises officers to stay out of routine school discipline issues that it says could better be handled by school administrators. It recommends schools sign agreements with law enforcement agencies that detail officers' responsibilities and outline their role in areas like discipline. But 34 percent of survey respondents said their schools did not specify what types of student disciplinary issues they can intervene in.

Bridges helped launch his county's school resource officer program in 1997, two years before the Columbine shooting brought a major influx of police into schools. He regularly surveyed students, parents, and school staff about how safe and supported they felt at school, and he was pleased to see positive results.

School shootings often change the way officers think on the job. "I don't know how it couldn't," Bridges said, but officers need to be just as prepared for the more routine interactions they will have with students every day, he said.

Bridges just trained 19 new Baltimore County school resource officers.

"The first thing I tell them is that if you don't like kids, this position is not for you," he said.

## **The Home of Parkland Survivor David Hogg Was Swatted**

CNN, June 5, 2018

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/05/us/hogg-family-home-swatting-incident-trnd/index.html>

The family of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student activist David Hogg was the victim of a "swatting" incident Tuesday morning.

A SWAT team responded to a call just after 8:30 a.m. of a barricaded subject at Hogg's residence. The caller said there was a person with a weapon inside of the home, Broward County Sheriff's spokesman Joy Oglesby told CNN.

The call was later determined to be a hoax.

No one was at home at the time of the incident, Oglesby said. Hogg and his family are in Washington D.C to accept the RFK Humanitarian Award.

Swatting is usually done by computer hackers, gamers or people skilled in online and smartphone communications as a prank. They make a false report of a serious crime in progress, resulting in police making a major show of force on innocent, unsuspecting people.

Swatting has been around since the early 2000s. Celebrities are often the victim.

In California alone, swatting calls have targeted the homes of actor Tom Cruise, comedian Russell Brand, Kim Kardashian and singers Rihanna and Miley Cyrus.

In many cases, they have resulted in deadly consequences. In December, a swatting case ended with a police officer fatally shooting a 28-year-old father of two standing in his front door in Wichita, Kansas.

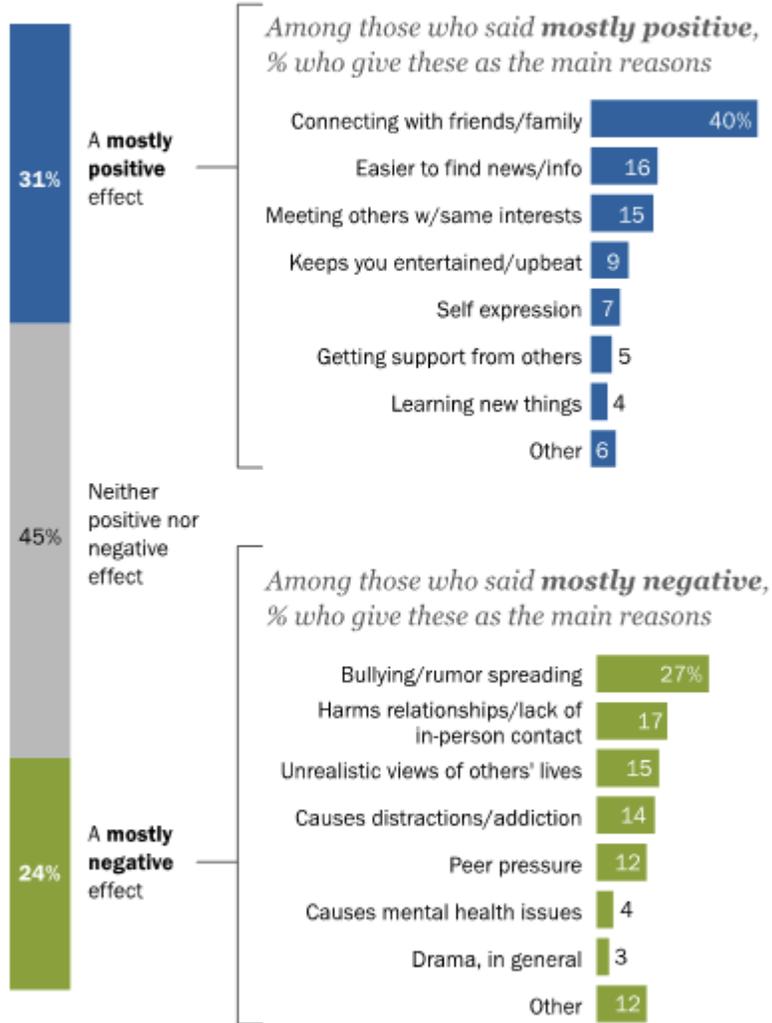
Hogg, who survived the February 14 attack at the Parkland school where 17 students and faculty were killed in minutes, has been a vocal proponent of sane gun laws. For that, he's been relentlessly attacked, with conspiracy theorists claiming he wasn't actually at the shooting or that he's a paid "crisis actor."

The Broward County Sheriff's Office is investigating the Tuesday incident.

Pew Research Center, May 31, 2018

## Teens have mixed views on social media's effect on people their age; many say it helps them connect with others, some express concerns about bullying

% of U.S. teens who say social media has had \_\_\_ on people their own age



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. Verbatim responses have been coded into categories, and figures may add up to more than 100% because multiple responses were allowed.

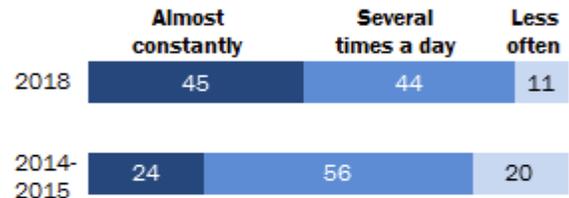
Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 10, 2018. "Teens, Social Media & Technology 2018"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat are the most popular online platforms among teens. Fully 95% of teens have access to a smartphone, and 45% say they are online 'almost constantly'

## 45% of teens say they're online almost constantly

% of U.S. teens who say they use the internet, either on a computer or a cellphone ...



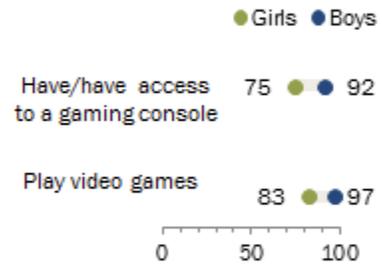
Note: "Less often" category includes teens who say they use the internet "about once a day," "several times a week" and "less often."

Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 10, 2018. Trend data from previous Pew Research Center survey conducted 2014-2015. "Teens, Social Media & Technology 2018"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Most teen boys and girls play video games

% of U.S. teens who say they ...



Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 10, 2018.

"Teens, Social Media & Technology 2018"

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To read the whole article, visit: <http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/05/31/teens-social-media-technology-2018/>

### School Safety Newsletter

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