



## Campus Cops Corner

### ***-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-***

#### **Public Safety Newsletter**

**While it's not very tasteful, when you have a job like mine, you pay attention to the details of school attacks and other "spree shootings." (Cut n' paste the below listed url into your browser to link to a previous edition of the Campus Cops Corner for definition of a "spree shooter.")**

**[http://www.ppcc.edu/files/8112/9539/5388/  
Classroom\\_Security\\_on\\_a\\_Budget\\_01-30-09.pdf](http://www.ppcc.edu/files/8112/9539/5388/Classroom_Security_on_a_Budget_01-30-09.pdf)**

**This issue of the Campus Cops Corner will discuss one of the tactics we need to guard against.**

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#### **HERDING**

One of the things police have taken note of is the frequency upon which the attackers use "herding tactics" designed to drive the victims in one direction or to one place. The intention, of course, is to "herd" all the victims into an area where they could more easily be victimized.

The bandits do this by a number of means including chaining doors (Virginia Tech) and/or blocking egress routes, using smoke, fire or other diversionary devices such as bombs (New Life Church). In at least one school shooting, (<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/a-school-shooting-in-jonesboro-arkansas-kills-five>), the attackers first set off the fire alarm. When the students evacuated to a pre-designated area as they had practiced over and over again, two classmates with rifles began shooting at them killing five and wounding ten others.

The above referenced incident occurred in 1998, and since that time, we've noted that both international and domestic terrorists have resorted to improvised explosive devices (IED's) as a weapon of choice. The "Theater Shooter" in Aurora (July 2012) used "smoke / tear gas bombs before he began shooting." The New Life Shooter (December 2007) threw smoke at both the north and south entrances of the facility prior to entering on the east.

Coupled with the number of inadvertent fire alarm activations we typically experience, it sparks concerns for me. How many of us gather in parking lots next to cars and / or nearby dumpsters when we evacuate? History has told us, it's those very cars and dumpsters which would be used to hide an IED.

So, what are we to do? While there are no guarantees, best practices involve recognizing the herding / or distracting device for what it is, i.e., funnel victims to a specific area or "freeze" (confuse) them into inaction. Secondly, once you evacuate, be aware of your surroundings and remain vigilant. Don't drop your guard, the emergency might not be over yet.

#### **Important Numbers & websites:**

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: [www.ppcc.edu/alert](http://www.ppcc.edu/alert)
- Crime Stoppers  
634-STOP (7867)
- Anonymous Reporting  
[www.SAFE2TELL.org](http://www.SAFE2TELL.org)  
  
1-877-542-7233

