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Importance of Incorporation of Mass Care into Active Shooter Training and Exercises

This poster will address a shortfall in the Emergency Management community. Our law enforcement and fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) partners frequently conduct active shooter exercises with objectives that focus on stopping the aggressive action or neutralization of the threat, and Triage, Treatment, and Transport of the wounded, while failing to consider objectives that address Mass Care services to family members, and non-injured persons. The authors 17 years' experience in Emergency Management including several years employed by the American Red Cross has led to the realization that this lack of accurate exercising can lead to a less than efficient response to a real-world active shooter, with a sometimes-significant delay in activating Mass Care partners. In fact, law enforcement so seldom interacts with traditional Mass Care partners that they may be unaware of which entity to contact to provide services following an active shooter.

This poster examines the author's theory that a failure to incorporate Mass Care into active shooter training and exercises leads to a delayed or deficient response to future real-world active shooter events. Through this research, it became apparent that while there are some jurisdictions who

truly embody the Whole Community approach, there is also room for our profession to improve our training and exercising, and subsequently our responses to real-world incidents.

Presentation Theme: Active shooter exercises that do not incorporate Mass Care as an objective, sell our communities short by not adequately preparing us for the after-effects and needs of affected persons following a real-world active shooter event.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Follow on to a paper written for the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy.