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## LESSON LEARNED

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### Active Shooter Response Operations: Establishing an Incident Command Post

#### SUMMARY

Law enforcement agencies should consider including provisions for staffing a communications center or incident command post (ICP) in their active shooter response procedures. Law enforcement personnel should receive training on the staffing processes.

#### DESCRIPTION

On October 11, 2008, the Hood River County, Oregon, Division of Emergency Services sponsored the Hood River Sheriff's Department Active Shooter Drill. The drill scenario simulated an active shooter situation with an unknown number of gunmen at Hood River Valley High School (HRVHS). Law enforcement officers and emergency medical services personnel responded following a 9-1-1 call from HRVHS reporting shots fired. The drill tested Hood River County's active shooter response policy and assessed the public safety and security response capability for an active shooter in a local school. The drill also assessed communication procedures among a police response team, the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, and HRVHS. Sixty-three participants from ten state and local agencies participated in the drill.

The Hood River County School District contains 9 schools and approximately 3,900 students.

During the drill, law enforcement personnel responded promptly to the notification of an active shooter situation at HRVHS and neutralized the threat. However, law enforcement personnel did not establish incident command or an onsite ICP due to the absence of procedures. Drill evaluators noted that law enforcement agencies should possess a plan for staffing a communications center or establishing an ICP during active shooter incidents.

Law enforcement agencies should consider including provisions for staffing a communications center or ICP in their active shooter response procedures. Law enforcement personnel should receive training on the staffing processes.

#### CITATION

Hood River County, OR Sheriff's Office. *Hood River Sheriff's Department Active Shooter Drill*. 8 Dec 2008.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=34666>

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