Development and Implementation of a University Active Shooter Drill Using Cross-Sector Collaboration and Nursing Leadership

Shannon Woods, DNP, RN, CNOR, CNE
Learning Outcomes

- Differentiate a tabletop exercise from an active participatory drill.

- Discuss the ways in which inter-professional and cross-sector collaboration can occur in developing successful emergency and disaster plans.

* Note that the pictures at the end of the presentation are of the actual "Active Shooter Drill" and are graphic.
Historical Changes in Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

- Active Shooter Defined
- The U.S. Statistics, 2000-2013
  - 160 incidents
  - 1,043 casualties
  - 70% in commerce/business or academic settings
- Technology
- Academia

Mitigation

- Robust emergency and disaster plans
  - Just a piece of paper
  - Who takes it seriously
- Education
- Practice
  - Develop, Execute and Evaluate
  - Drill, drill, and drill some more
Nursing Practice Contributions

- Emergency management and mitigation naturally within daily work
- Nurses as natural leaders in other settings
Four Phases of Emergency Management

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Veneema, 2013
Tabletop Exercises

- Definition
- Simulation
- Comfort level; fail and evaluate
- Knowledge from each other
- Limitations

Jacobs, 2014; Rega & Fink, 2014; Wittman-Price, Godshall, & Wilson, 2013
Active Participatory Drills

- Definition
- Entire stakeholders and outside unknown participants
- Assess responses and evaluate strengths and opportunities
- Plan of improvement

Veneema, 2013
The Plan for the University

- Evaluation of current Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – Evidence based Practice
- Tabletop (natural disaster) with key university stakeholders and revisions of EOP
- EOP to desktop computers, hard copies, flip charts
- Ultimate final goal was an Active Shooter Drill
Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Local law enforcement, fire, and emergency responders
- Technical College Make-up Artistry Department for moulage
- Partnered with The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Force
  - Floor plans
  - SWAT practice drills on campus
- A win-win situation
Multi-faceted Roll-out

- Mandatory employee education
  - Fire safety
  - Active shooter (Run-Hide-Fight)
  - EOP education
- Active shooter tabletop with university administration and the cross-sector community members
- More revisions and on to the final drill
“Operation Nighthawk”

- When
- Who
- How to prepare community and other stakeholders
- Scenario was kept secret
“Operation Nighthawk”

- Outcomes
- Obstacles
- Gaps
- The true test – a true active shooter 2017
- Final findings – the work is NEVER done
References

Available upon request:

swoods@thomasu.edu
Questions?