

Stopping Mass Shootings Why Gun Free Zones Will Never Work

If you're a patrol officer who's first on the scene of an active-shooter call, should you make immediate entry in hunt for the suspect...or wait for other early responders and improvise a rapid deployment team? **Since the Columbine** massacre 9 years ago, **few if any trainers any longer advocate delaying for a formal SWAT call-out, which can take 30 minutes or more** in some areas. But commonly a hasty assembly of 3 or more officers for a search-and-confrontation team is recommended, with coordinated movement tactics taught accordingly.

To **trainer Ron Borsch**, a 30-year law enforcement veteran who manages the small SEALE (South East Area Law Enforcement) Regional Training Academy in Bedford, Ohio, that's **a deadly waste of time when seconds can mean lives.** Based on his on-going research of active-shooter realities, he's convinced that single-officer entries can potentially lessen the toll of casualties while exposing the responders involved to little additional risk. Although popular law enforcement literature has just lately begun to explore the single-officer concept, Borsch has promoted the idea to in-service trainees for more than 2 years and has taught solo- and 2-officer entry-action models in academy courses for the past year. And he finds that administrators whose officers are exposed to this approach generally accept it enthusiastically.

Where times have been reliably documented, **the average post-Columbine "rapid mass murder episode" lasts just 8 minutes**, according to Borsch's calculations. "The murderer's timeline begins when he says it begins. **Any prevention, deterrence or delay efforts have failed at that point, and the police are handicapped with catching up whenever they are notified.**"

Among his findings that have helped shape his tactical thinking:

- 98% of active killers act alone.
- 80% have long guns, 75% have multiple weapons (about 3 per incident), and they sometimes bring hundreds of extra rounds of ammunition to the shooting site.
- Despite such heavy armaments and an obsession with murder at close range, they have an average hit rate of less than 50%.
- They strike "stunned, defenseless innocents via surprise ambush. **On a level playing field, the typical active killer would be a no-contest against anyone reasonably capable of defending themselves.**"
- "They absolutely control life and death until they stop at their leisure or are stopped." They do not take hostages, do not negotiate.
- **They generally try to avoid police, do not hide or lie in wait for officers and "typically fold quickly upon armed confrontation."**

- **90% commit suicide on-site.** “Surrender or escape attempts are unlikely.”

Unlike conventional criminal predators, who often have no reluctance about attacking police, active shooters tend to be “cowardly,” Borsch says. **“They choose unarmed, defenseless innocents for a reason: They have no wish to encounter someone who can hurt them. They are personally risk- and pain-avoidant.** The tracking history of these murderers has proved them to be unlikely to be aggressive with police. **If pressed, they are more likely to kill themselves.”**

This is an edited version of the following report:

Ohio trainer makes the case for single-officer entry against active killers

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<http://www.policeone.com/active-shooter/articles/1695125-Ohio-trainer-makes-the-case-for-single-officer-entry-against-active-killers/>