Visitor Management

Auburn City Schools

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- Safety Coordinator
- State of Alabama School Safety Task Force
- Currently utilizing Raptor Technologies at all 13 campuses
A Word About Statistics…

- Statistics on school shootings, and their frequency, can be misleading. Accuracy is difficult to find, as statistics may sometimes include firearm offenses near campuses.
- Although some examples in this presentation use school shootings to illustrate security breaches, many other safety situations are much more common and pose a more reasonable risk.
- The most recent school shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, CA, lasted 16 seconds from beginning to end (The Washington Post, 2019). While not all details are known, these specific types of incidents are difficult to mitigate and prevent.

Learning Objectives

1. Define “visitor management”
2. Explain why visitor management is important
3. Explain how access control and visitor management work together
4. Detail options for visitor management and how they interface with the future of school safety
Why do we do it?

What is ”Visitor Management”?

- The process of tracking every VISITOR who enters through your office (excludes full-time employees).
Why is Visitor Management Important?

- Allows the school control over who is in the building
- Provides the school with patterns and trends of visitors
- Provides notification of banned persons/sex offenders

Question

- What are some unconventional situations in which there have been breaches of school access?
Examples

- Jemison (AL) High School
- Unauthorized private school student spent two days at the school

Examples (Cont.)

- Aztec (NM) High School
- Former student entered the school, disguised as a current student
- Shooter had been on federal law enforcement radar
Examples (Cont.)

- Northpark (CA) Elementary School
- Domestic incident
- Shooter attempted entry through alternate doors, was permitted to “sign-in” at front desk and walk straight to classroom

Questions?

Does your school/facility currently have a policy regarding personal visits from significant others?

Is there communication between staff and administration regarding potential problem visitors (ACS example)
Renewed Interest in Access Control

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting (Parkland, FL) reemphasized the importance of access control
- Ideally, all visitors enter through the front office and are screened at the front desk

What are Potential Visitor Management Issues?

- Multiple school access points
- Untrained staff (substitutes)
- Untrained students, especially younger students
- Former students (Parkland)
- Spouses and significant others
Safety of Staff

- As the scope of violence is expanded to consider perpetrators who are neither students or employees, consideration must be made for the potential of domestic incidents to find their way to school grounds. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (2017) the percentage of female teachers in public schools in the United States rose to 77% in the 2015-16 school year. This statistic is up from the 1999-2000 school year in which 75% of public school teachers were female (National Center for Education Statistics, 2017).
- When the increase in female teachers is coupled with the fact that “nearly 1 in 5 women report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019), the likelihood for domestic violence incidents to carry over to a school campus becomes a more realistic possibility. This presents a school safety issue that may not often be discussed when planning for potential threats to a campus.

Spouses and Significant Others

- Added emphasis after Northpark Elementary (San Bernadino, CA) shooting
- Open communication must exist between faculty/staff and administration regarding potential for violence
- Intern relationships also present potential for volatility
Who Gets to Come In?
In what capacity is the visitor entering?
Most parents have a profession, but that does not exclude them from visitor management procedures
Ex-employees are not the same as current employees

How do we handle potential sex offenders prior to conviction?
Raptor Technologies

- Standard equipment (pictured)
- 3M card scanner
- Label printer (labels)
- Visitor posters

What if we receive a hit on a potential sexual offender?
Visual verification of the visitor

Why is visual verification important?

- Same first and last name
- Same D.O.B.
- Would you verify?
After you have verified identification

Visitor Management and the future of school safety

Threats are ever-evolving

Former students, family members of students, and significant others can all pose a potential threat to campus

We are responsible for the safety of ALL on campus, not just students

Customizable alerts allow flexibility beyond just sexual offenders

The “hidden statistic” of who chooses not to visit campus due to stricter visitor management policies
Keep your friends close

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