

THE TRIPWIRE

A Situational Report of events and research on security matters impacting the United States and its citizens today

Recent Security Event

Dismissed Employee Kills Five Co-Workers in Illinois Factory Shooting
Feb, 2019 - Reuters

"A gunman opened fire at an Illinois factory just after receiving notice of termination from his job there on Friday, killing five fellow workers and wounding five policemen before he was slain by police, authorities said.

The assailant, identified as Gary Martin, 45, had worked at the Henry Pratt Company for 15 years before Friday's violence unfolded at the firm's sprawling facility in Aurora, 40 miles (65 km) west of Chicago, Aurora Police Chief Kristen Ziman said.

... public records show Martin was convicted felons are generally barred from possessing firearms."

Stat of the Day

Correlation between Shooters and Domestic Violence:

"57 percent of the cases (mass shootings) included a spouse, former spouse or other family member among the victims – and that 16 percent of the attackers had previously been charged with domestic violence."

Every town for Gun Safety, 2018

Civilian Response to Active Shooters

According to a 2016/2017 FBI report. "...the role civilians play in stopping shooters. This happened in *eight* of the 50 cases in this study, and *six* of the cases in the previous two years...not including two other cases where non-sworn security personnel stopped the shooter or two incidents where civilians confronted, but did not stop, a suspect. In 14 of the cases the shooters were stopped during an exchange of gunfire with the police."

A Proactive Approach:

The question for police leaders is whether to ignore the reality of good citizen intervention or to pro-actively acknowledge it. The tired advice of "Don't get involved, just call 911" does not apply when heroic men and women see an opportunity to save lives. Maybe we ought to embrace, encourage, and even train our good citizens on ways they can intervene. The run away and hide strategy chokes some among us. And who knows what affect this indoctrination of passivity has on the thought process of a killer bent on mass injury and panic? We might have unknowingly emboldened those with that twisted mindset.

Police Chief Joel F. Shults, 2018

Concerning Behaviors:

Reports show that *active shooters often share characteristics and exhibit similar behavior in the weeks and months before an attack*. This behavior can signal impending violence, but is rarely reported to law enforcement, and when it is often the attacks still occur.

"The gunman who killed 12 people in a bar in Thousand Oaks, California last week, fit that pattern. A 28-year-old former Marine, he had allegedly physically assaulted his high school track coach, got into screaming matches with his mother so severe the police were called, and grew more volatile after a motorcycle accident left him unable to work out. He also of course, had easy access to a gun and ammunition."

Ian David Long, Defense One, 2018