

INCIDENT REPORT: Random Targeted Violence at a grocery store

LINE 1- TIME OF REPORT: February 20th, 2025

LINE 2- TYPE OF INCIDENT: Shooting with a Semiautomatic Rifle

LINE 3- TIME OF INCIDENT: February 17th, 2025

LINE 4- LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Harris Teeter Grocery Store (Crozet, VA)



LINE 5- CASUALTIES: 2 victims killed, one in her vehicle, and the other while walking out of the store (3 counting the attacker)

LINE 6- NARRATIVE:

The Crozet community experienced a worst nightmare situation after a gunman

shot and killed two people in the parking lot of a Harris Teeter grocery store.

Andre Morgan, who lives in Crozet and was just feet away from the shooter, says you never expect something like this to happen in your hometown, until it does. “Crozet is thought of as the kind of quiet part of Albemarle County,” said Morgan. “This just can’t be real.”

Morgan was in the lobby of Augusta Health, right across from the grocery store, when he heard gunfire at about 1:35 p.m. on Monday afternoon, February 17. “One of the nurses said, ‘What’s that?’” said Morgan. “I said, kind of quietly, that’s gun shots.”

Morgan says the gunman looked calm and collected as he used a semiautomatic rifle to strike people in the lot. “Anything he saw, he just locked onto,” Morgan said.

According to police, the first victim was 43-year-old Peter Martin of Crozet, who was exiting the store when he was struck by the shooter. Martin was pronounced dead at the scene. The second was 68-year-old Diane Spangler of Afton, VA who was shot while in her car. Spangler was transported to the UVA Medical Center but succumbed to her injuries that night.

Police also revealed Tuesday that it was mere coincidence that the off-duty officer was in the store at the Blue Ridge Shopping Center when the gunfire erupted around 1:35 p.m.

“Just 20 seconds of shooting had elapsed before the off-duty federal agent who heard the gunfire and was exiting Harris Teeter engaged the shooter with their personal weapon,” said Capt. Darrell Byers. “The shooter was pronounced deceased at the scene.”

LINE 7- ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

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LINE 8- ASSESSMENT: This attack shows that when in public places we must be always be aware of how vulnerable we are to these type of incidents. Random targeted violence is something where experts such as Dr. Karie Gibson with the FBI Behavioral Analytic Unit mentions it is more likely than not linked to suicidal ideations by the perpetrators. Law enforcement are still investigating to find a motive from the attacker. It is unsure if the attacker was planning to attack as many victims as possible before taking their life or suicide by cop. Luckily a good samaritan was exiting the store within seconds of the start of the shooting. The defender was prepared to immediately engage the threat and stop the attack. This is a great example of community support in an imperfect situation. Without the action of the off-duty officer it would have been minutes until the first responding officer would have been on scene.

LINE 9- ADVISORY:

Not all community members exercise their right of self defense when exposed to an immediate hostile threat. If you chose to carry a lethal weapon, visualize the moment when you would use it for life safety situations. Find training opportunities and never forget that action is always a step of ahead of reaction. Through training we can always make that time left as reactive defenders.

Stay focused and prepare for what you can't always prevent.

LINE 10- References:

<https://www.29news.com/2025/02/18/witness-police-detail-timeline-harris-teeter-shooting-crozet/?outputType=amp>

https://dailyprogress.com/news/local/crime-courts/hero-likely-averted-mass-shooting-at-crozet-harris-teeter-that-killed-3/article_a901473c-ee33-11ef-b00c-0f6693b7e0ae.html