

NEWS RELEASE
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ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING DRILL

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 30, 2017) The Suffolk Police Department and Suffolk Fire & Rescue participated in a full-scale active shooter training drill this afternoon to test response times, capabilities and cooperation.

As defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, an active shooter is “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.”

All told, more than sixty first responders participated in the drill which took place at the Pruden Center for Industry & Technology located at 4169 Pruden Boulevard.

During the course of the exercise scenario which commenced at 1:00 p.m., police entered the building to apprehend the single gunman and secure the facility, followed by rescue units who worked quickly to provide emergency medical assessment and treatment before then mock staging the transport of the eleven gunshot “victims”, played by youth and adult volunteer cadets from the local Civil Air Patrol squadron and staff at the Pruden Center.

A Planning Committee had worked for months developing the scenario, plans, goals and objectives involved with the situation.

The training lasted just under two hours and was followed by a debriefing where Departments gathered to assess responses to the situation.

The overarching lesson learned is how partnerships contribute to the ability of public safety personnel to respond to such tragic instances. While each entity is tasked with their own responsibilities in such incidents, the ability to communicate and work together in such dangerous and emotionally harrowing situations is imperative.

Joint training exercises including both Departments will continue in the future, and they appreciated the use of the Suffolk Public Schools facility to conduct this initial training.

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