HOSTAGE SCENARIO

It is 11:00 a.m., Monday morning, the first day of school following a significant weekend in the school’s history. The previous Friday night _______________ High School had defeated its rival school and had qualified for the State playoffs. Unfortunately, immediately following the game, a fight occurred in the school parking lot. The fight appeared to be gang-related, and two students from the visiting school were transported to the local emergency room. The hospital reports that their injuries were severe.

At 11:05 a.m., a student reports to the gym teacher that he saw four students from the rival school on campus between the gym and the baseball field. The student reports that the students are dressed in gang attire and appear to be armed. The teacher immediately checked outside and observed two individuals approaching the __________ wing of the building. The teacher immediately contacts the school principal’s office to report the intruders. During this conversation, two gunshots are heard. Within several seconds, a school custodian calls on his radio from the second floor to report that a teacher has been shot and is lying outside room 206. The custodian also reports that he observed two teenagers run into room 204.

The superintendent of schools is out of town attending a conference.

Scenario Questions:

1. Based on this scenario, what are the principal’s first concerns?

2. What initial actions should the principal take?

3. What should the principal do next?
HOSTAGE SCENARIO (CONTINUED)

4. Draw your initial emergency organization, including personnel assigned to each position (by title), in the space below.

5. For what contingencies must you plan?
HOSTAGE SCENARIO UPDATE #1

[Distribute this update 20 minutes into the exercise!]

It is now 11:20 a.m., and the initial police officers have responded to the scene. One officer has radioed dispatch that two teenagers dressed in gang attire were running into the intermediate school complex. The officer believes that the teenagers entered the building through the door at the _______________ of the complex.

Update #1 Questions:

1. How will the expansion and escalation of the event affect school command and control?

2. Draw your new incident organization in the space below.
3. How will the Unified Command at the district office be briefed on the situation? What information will you provide?

4. How will you work with police officers for the remainder of this incident?

5. For what contingencies must you plan?
HOSTAGE SCENARIO UPDATE #2

[Distribute this handout 35 minutes into the exercise!]

It is now 11:30 a.m. After consulting briefly with the superintendent’s designee, the police Incident Commander has ordered that a perimeter be established around the ______ wing of the high school and the _____________ wing of the intermediate school and has ordered a complete evacuation of all other school facilities. He has also ordered an outer perimeter around the entire school property.

Fire and emergency medical services units have been dispatched to the scene.

Word of the incident is beginning to circulate through the faculty, staff, and student body. Several students have used their cell phones to call their parents.

_________________________________________________________

Update #2 Questions:

1. What actions should you take based on this new information?

2. To what location will you evacuate the students? If you evacuate to a different location than is usual during school drills, how will you notify the teachers of the change in location?

3. Draw your organization as it appears at this time.
HOSTAGE SCENARIO UPDATE #2 (CONTINUED)

4. What will you do in response to the students who have called their parents?

5. For what contingencies should you plan?
HOSTAGE SCENARIO UPDATE #3

[Distribute this handout 60 minutes into the exercise!]

It is now 11:50 a.m. A news helicopter has arrived on the scene and is circling the campus. Significant numbers of parents have arrived at the perimeter and are angry that they cannot pick up their children. Two news crews have also arrived at the perimeter and are attempting to interview the police officers and parents. They are broadcasting live from the scene to their stations.

The phones at the district office have been ringing constantly, and 9-1-1 dispatch reports that its lines are jammed with incoming calls requesting information.

Update #3 Questions:

1. Based on this new information, what should you do?

2. What does your organization look like at this time?
HOSTAGE SCENARIO UPDATE #3 (CONTINUED)

3. How can the media be used to assist the police and school authorities?