



Experiencing a Campus Active Shooter

Lessons learned from an active shooter event at Arkansas State University - Jonesboro

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March 8, 2018



Experiencing an Active Shooter

Arkansas State University

- Located Jonesboro, AR, 75,515 population, rural community 70 miles northwest of Memphis, TN
- Student headcount – 14,125 Fall 2017; 9,780 FTE
- Faculty / staff – 1,430 FTE
- Facilities Management staff – 173 FTE
- 158 building, 4.2 million GSF
- 1,077 acres, 573 maintained acres
- Master's research institution
- Division I athletics, Sun Belt Conference, Red Wolves mascot



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Event Summary

- **Thursday December 10, 2015, 1:25 PM** – A male drives a pickup into to Arkansas State University campus, around barricades, onto sidewalks, eventually drives circles and stops on the east Student Union lawn. He gets out of truck wielding a shotgun, instructing nearby students to leave the area.
- Located visibly in bed of truck is 5 gallons of gasoline and 100 lb. propane tank.
- Emergency 911 calls first received around 1:30 PM, campus lockdown issued at approximately 1:32 PM.
- https://youtu.be/otInxisiY_A

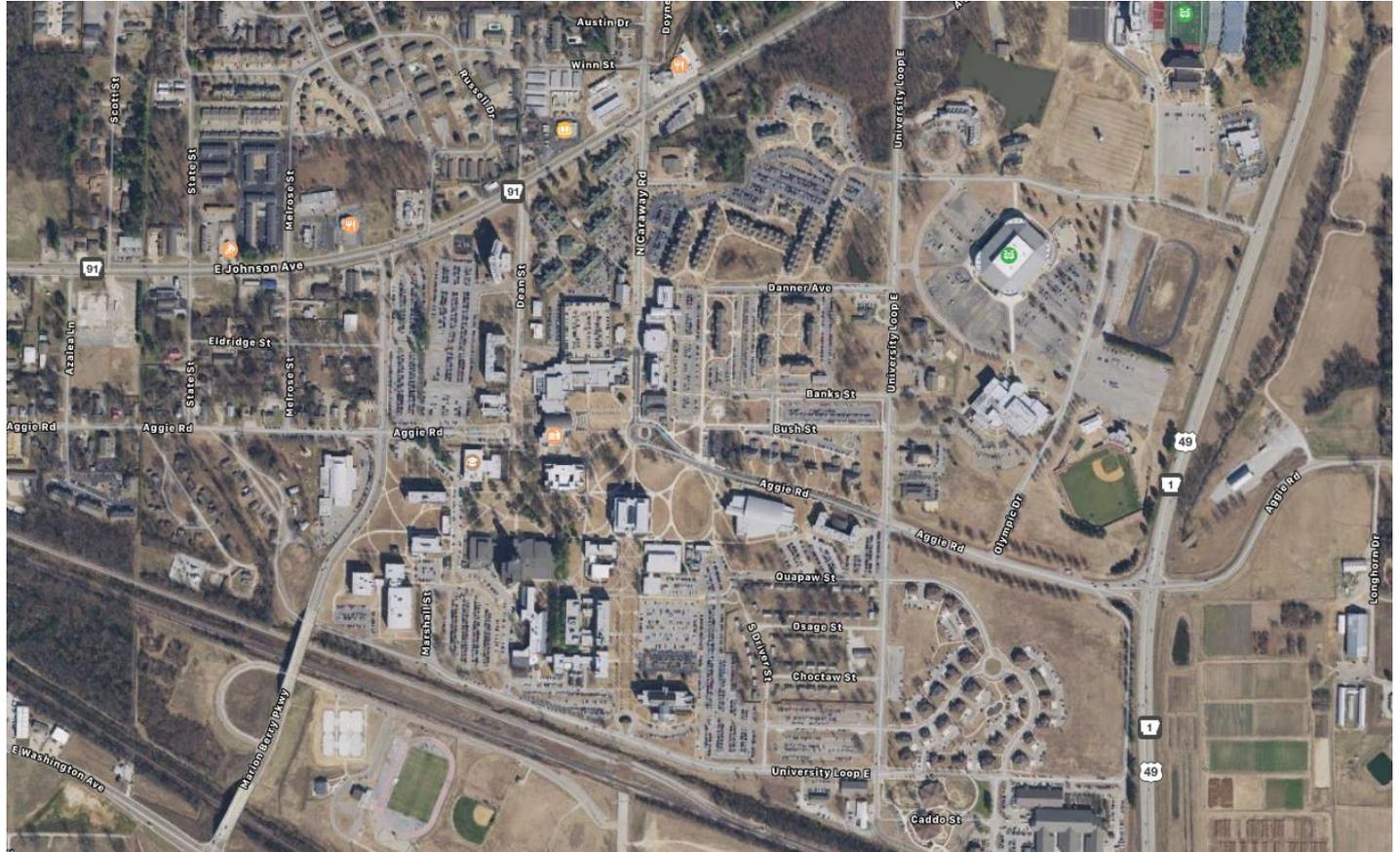


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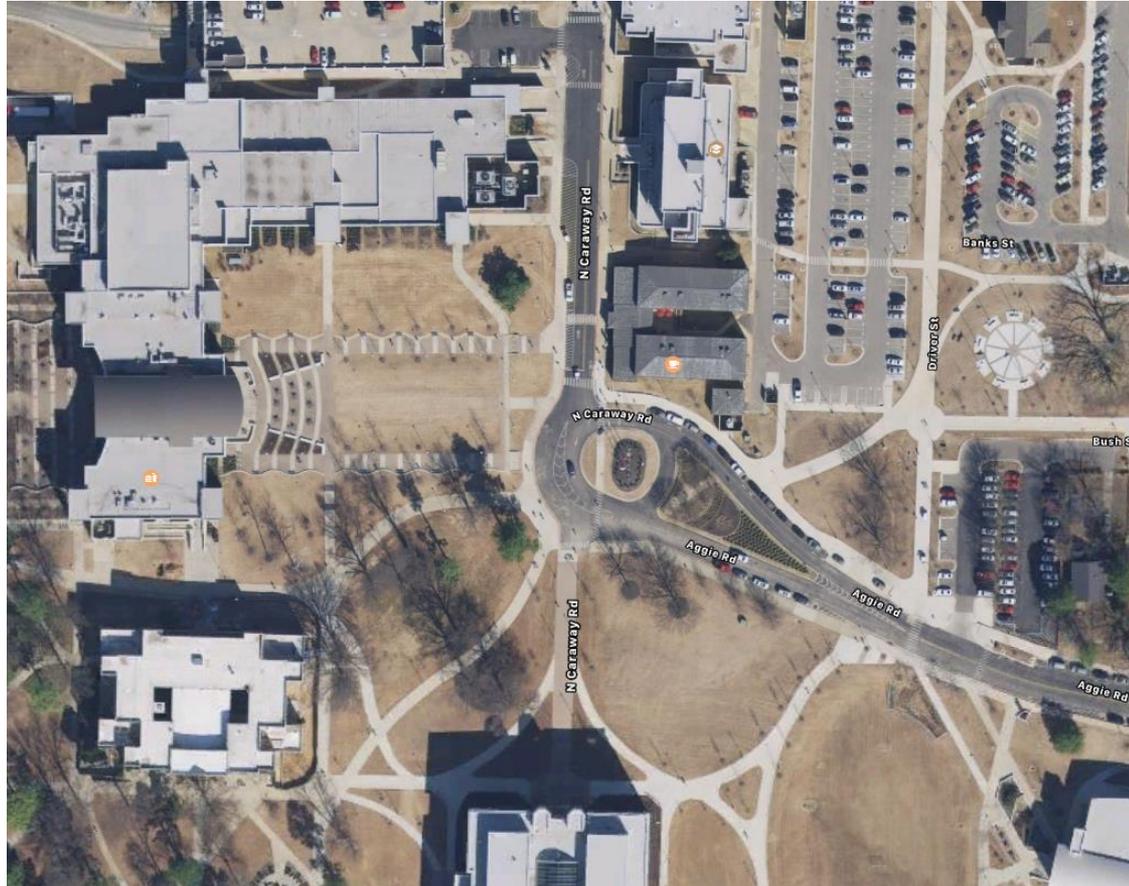
Event Summary Cont.

- This was second day of Fall 2015 Final Exams, students were in classes, in Student Union, residence halls, and other areas of campus.
- Suspect peacefully surrendered and was apprehended approximately at 3:15 PM, no shots fired.
- Campus lockdown lifted around 4:00 PM.

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Arkansas State @ArkansasState · 17m

The individual with a weapon has been surrounded by police. No shots have been fired, no reported injuries.

← ↻ 126 ❤️ 27 ⋮



Arkansas State @ArkansasState · 30m

Report of an active shooter spotted at the student union. Everyone should evacuate the west side of the building and clear the area.

← ↻ 538 ❤️ 53 ⋮

●●●● AT&T 1:33 PM 90% 🔋

← Messages 672-83 Details

Campus Alert This is a test of the ASU Emergency Alert System. Check your email for further information and your safety tip of the month.

Today 1:32 PM

Campus Alert Man with weapon in on east side of student union. Campus lockdown immediately.

Campus Alert Active shooter spotted at the student union. Everyone should evacuate to the west side of the building and clear the area



Text Message

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Experiencing an Active Shooter

General Lessons Learned – What Went Right

- FEMA Virtual Table Top Exercise on Active Shooter scenario was occurring in Student Union at time of incident. UPD and other EOC staff response was instantaneous.
- Local law enforcement responded and secured the area within 15 minutes of 911 call (approximately 40-50 responders beside UPD staff)



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General Lessons Learned – What Went Right (cont.)

- Mass notifications (loud speaker address from Library tower, building speaker address, campus text messages, social media, desk phone alerts, email alerts) activated within 3 minutes of incident.
- Physical lock down and shelter in place began immediately following the mass notification (trained students, staff and faculty)
- Campus road closure was generally successful within 20 minutes.



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General Lessons Learned – What Went Right (cont.)

- Frequent communications occurred from AState text and social media to advise people sheltering in place and concerned persons off campus.
- Most buildings adjacent to the incident evacuated calmly and quickly.
- Most support personnel instinctively responded by directing students / staff / faculty to safe areas or building evacuation routes.
- Responders were very prepared.
- Freshmen and Sophomore Active Shooter Training well prepared students.



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General Lessons Learned – What Went Poorly

- Emergency Operations Command (EOC) was not centralized. Communications occurred via phone and radio instead of face-to-face. This created delays and some confusion of responsibilities.
- Some off-duty law enforcement responded in plain clothes, or in non-enforcement vehicles bearing tactical weapons and clothing (friend or foe?)
- It was initially unclear which buildings should evacuate and which should shelter in place.
- Mass notification via speakers / PA systems was not clear to everyone.



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General Lessons Learned – What Went Poorly (cont.)

- Misinformation from social media generated by students / staff was re-communicated by news media, reports of shots fired.
- Access control system took 15-20 minutes to activated electronic locks following campus lock down order
 - Delay of activation since primary system manager was not on campus.
- Faculty not required to have Active Shooter training, students lead barricade / shelter in place activities.
- FM staff was initially asked to manage road entrances, was not clear if they had authority to restrict access to campus (responders, press, parents).

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General Lessons Learned – What Went Poorly (cont.)

- FM staff was expected to lock exterior and interior doors.
 - FM staff were not present in all buildings at time of incident
 - Exterior doors with panic bars generally require a special tool / key to lock
 - FM staff did not understand role prior to event to be secondary first responders
 - Many staff do not carry keys
 - Some were unwilling to lock exterior doors in fear of being a potential target
- Most students / faculty / staff do not understand ordinate directions for evacuation and incident avoidance.
- On campus daycare facility had parents walking to campus to pick up children during campus lock down.



Experiencing an Active Shooter

Lessons learned for Facilities Management – Staffing

- FM Staff need annual training on Active Shooter response, from a support perspective.
- FM Staff need access to keys and panic bar tools to secure manual locking exterior doors.
- EOC chain of command awareness is essential for FM communications and providing directions.
- FM staff should clearly understand roles and functions in a lock-down scenario.



Experiencing an Active Shooter

Lessons learned for Facilities Management – Site & Building Exterior Design

- Most of existing buildings and areas are vulnerable to vehicle access. More barriers will be placed to deter and minimize full-sized vehicle access.



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- Entrance Doors require design with security and protection in mind.



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Lessons learned for Facilities Management – Site & Building Exterior Design

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- Entrance Doors require design with security and protection in mind.
- Minimize or eliminate any features / structure that can hide or protect a predator.



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- Minimize or eliminate store front / window walls at ground level. Buffer the window access from exterior with site features.



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- Entrance Doors require design with security and protection in mind.
- Minimize or eliminate any features / structure that can hide or protect a predator.
- Minimize or eliminate store front / window walls at ground level. Buffer the window access from exterior with site features.
- Liberal quantities of security cameras



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Experiencing an Active Shooter

Lessons learned for Facilities Management – Building Interiors & Classrooms

- Interior glass walls and windows adjacent to hallways and other public spaces creates occupant vulnerability in lockdown / shelter in-place situations.



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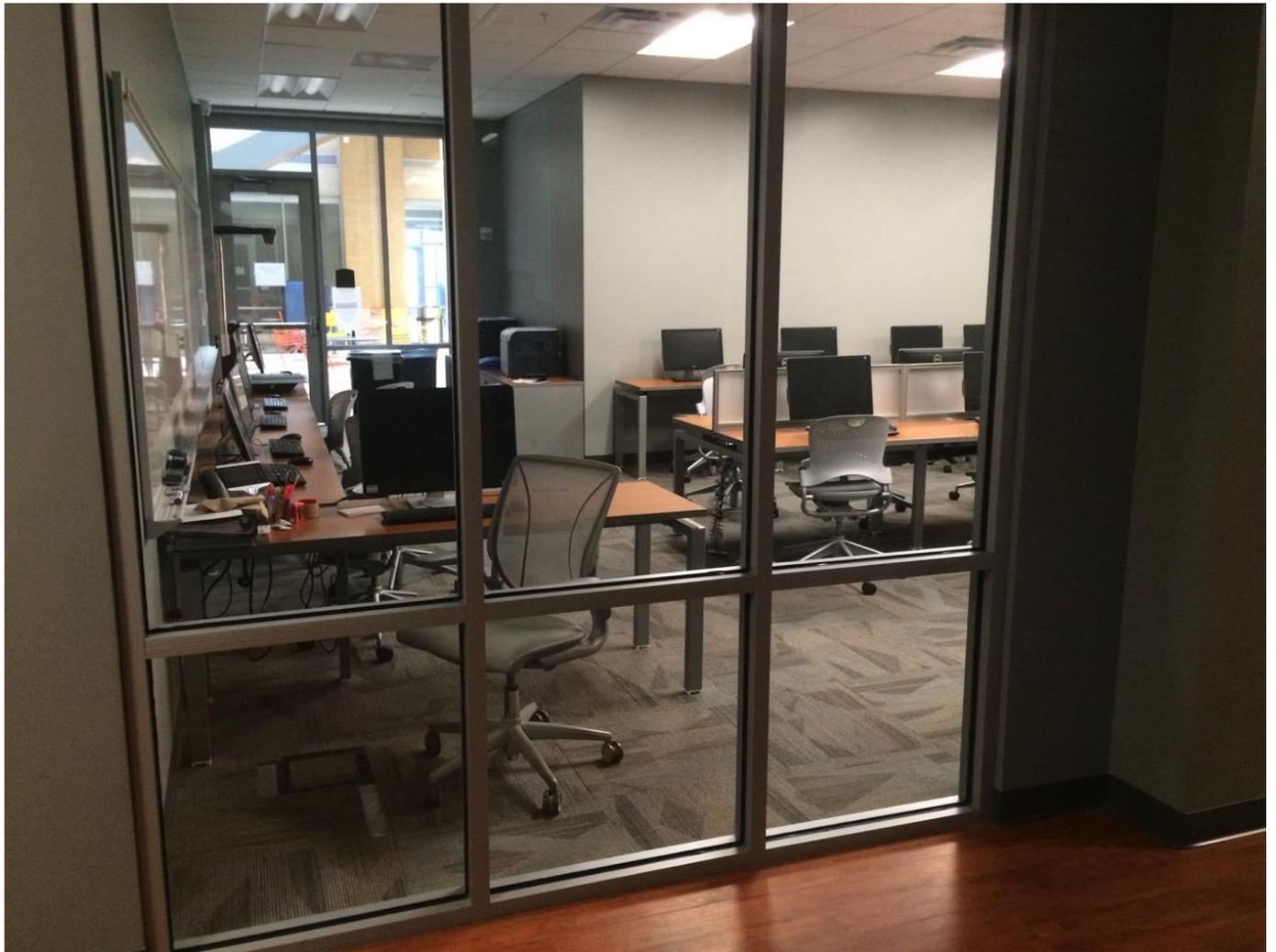
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Where possible, door side lights should not be on latch side of door.



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Lessons learned for Facilities Management – Building Interiors & Classrooms

- Interior glass walls and windows adjacent to hallways and other public spaces creates occupant vulnerability in lockdown / shelter in-place situations.
 - In existing buildings, interior glass and exterior glass can be obscured to limit visibility in the spaces.
- Open hallways is desired for quickly identifying threats, speed of egress, and visibility for responders.



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- Open hallways is desired for quickly identifying threats, speed of egress, and visibility for responders.
- Easily locked interior rooms is critical, documented to have saved lives at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Stoneman-Douglas. **BE SURE YOU SELECT A FUNCTIONAL LOCK!!!**



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INTERCONNECTED LEVERSET



LEVER Front



LEVER Back



ALL ABOUT
DOORS &
WINDOWS
allaboutdoors.com





AState proposed learning space passage set standards are ANSI F95 Interconnecting Single Lock and F13 Corridor Mortise.



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Thank You!!

Questions?

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