



TACTICAL TRAINING/ CASUALTY CARE PROGRAM

Mercyhealth | Janesville, WI

Overview

School and workplace violence is an increasingly common threat. Since 1992, almost 400 school shootings have taken place, and a recent FBI report shows that incidents are increasing annually. Even in the best of circumstances, emergency medical service (EMS) providers may not be in a position to render aid immediately to the wounded. In many cases, it is up to the individuals at the scene to help the victims and stop the bleeding. Because of this, Mercyhealth partnered with local EMS providers, law enforcement, fire departments and school districts to create and deploy a Casualty Care training program with a specially designed emergency kit to local school districts and other organizations to impart vital emergency training. Following this program's development, Mercyhealth then went one step further, designing and building a Tactical Training Center to offer training to the professionals who would aid victims of a violent situation. Opened in October 2015, the 25,000-square-foot Center imitates classrooms, a church, a nightclub, a theater, a boardroom, an emergency department and even a residence, allowing training to mimic realistic hostage, siege and terrorism scenarios.

Studies show that hemorrhage (bleeding) represents the largest percentage of preventable deaths in penetrating trauma such as shootings. In an effort to save innocent lives, the Casualty Care course applies the lessons learned from the global war on

terror to the school setting, teaching the basics of hemorrhage control to improve outcomes. Research also shows that a feeling of helplessness is one of the leading causes of post-traumatic stress disorder. By empowering the staff to act, the Casualty Care program hopes to provide peace of mind.

When law enforcement, fire and EMS are called to an active shooter scene, they don't often have much information, creating high threat situations. A tactical training course, developed in cooperation with the new Mercyhealth EMS Tactical Training Center, helps hone their skills to safely secure multiple scenarios. The Center focuses on training in tactical EMS; this includes teaching EMS professionals how to operate within a SWAT team structure and providing tactical emergency training (self-aid

and buddy-aid techniques critical during the first 15 minutes of an injury) to stakeholders.

Impact

The training program and 5,217 medical supply kits have been provided to organizations across nine states. The program has trained first responders in 20 counties.

Lessons Learned

Collaboration counts. EMS providers, law enforcement, hospitals, fire departments, schools and businesses are all essential in a well-planned, multi-

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disciplinary approach. Mercyhealth helped organize regional EMS, police and fire departments to deploy the first large-scale training to the Janesville School District beginning in 2014. The program has grown from there, engaging other regional EMS, police and fire departments in coordination with Mercyhealth or other local health care providers to provide onsite training using the Casualty Care program curriculum and emergency supply kits. The program offers tips for success to other regions, to help support program development beyond its service area. Tips include: Form partnerships early, take a multidisciplinary approach, build on past success, and keep it local.


Future Goals

The goal is to maintain the program, continuing to build awareness and train interested people in the area, as they have done over the past several years. In addition, they will continue to ship the kits and training videos nationwide.

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