


Tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue

-Medical Director's Perspective

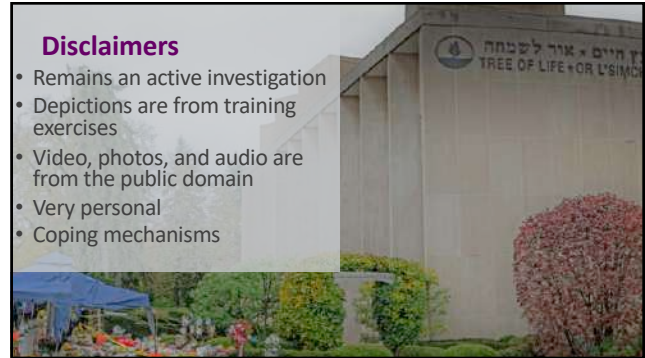
Ron Roth, MD FACEP, FAEMS
 Professor of Emergency Medicine
 University of Pittsburgh
 Medical Director, City of Pittsburgh
 Department of Public Safety
 Team Physician, Pittsburgh Steelers



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Disclaimers

- Remains an active investigation
- Depictions are from training exercises
- Video, photos, and audio are from the public domain
- Very personal
- Coping mechanisms




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Ambulance Down in the Valley

-Joseph Malins (1895)

Then an old sage remarked, "it's a marvel to me,
 That people give far more attention
 To repairing the results than to stopping the cause,
 When they'd much better aim at prevention."



Dangerous cliff without a fence.

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Tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue

EVENT
and
RESPONSE

What
Saved
Lives

Aftermath

4



My qualifications...

Medical Director,
 City of Pittsburgh
 Department of Public
 Safety

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El Paso, Texas



Midland, Texas



Dayton, Ohio

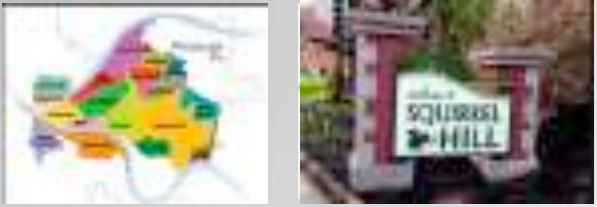
YOUR PHOTO HERE

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An active shooter event could NEVER happen in our town.




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Tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue



EVENT and RESPONSE



What Saved Lives




Aftermath

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1. Have a plan

Pittsburgh Approach



- Grass roots effort by Police-Fire-EMS
- Supported by administration




Active Threat Training

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Where would I get a plan?

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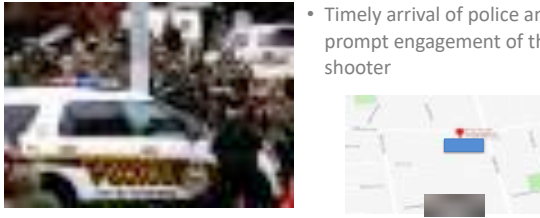
Hartford Consensus

- Threat suppression
- Hemorrhage control
- Rapid Extrication to safety
- Assessment by medical providers
- Transport to definitive care

- Engage stakeholders
- Evidence based
- Emphasis on seamless integration between public safety providers
- Recognize that the initial care providers will be bystanders
- Education basic lifesaving measures
- **Not acceptable to wait for casualties to be brought out to the perimeter.**

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2. Threat suppression



- Timely arrival of police and prompt engagement of the shooter

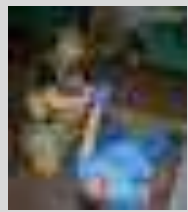
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3. Training

Public
CPR + RUN-HIDE-FIGHT

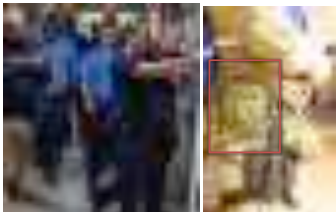


Public Safety



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4. TEMS embedded with SWAT



- Protocols may vary
- TEMS embedded with SWAT Teams
 - Monthly training
- SWAT operators with basic medical education and IFAKs
- Care under fire

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5. Rescue task force



- Enter area that is "cleared" and extricate patients
- Fire – basic care and "heavy lifting"
- EMS – basic care / limited ALS

TEMS ≠ RTF

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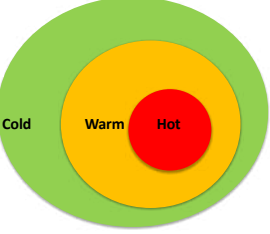
Pittsburgh RESCUE TASK FORCE




UPMC
LIFE CHANGING PROGRESS

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Old Way



New Way



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6. Casualty Collection Points

- Know where to send/take patients
- Immediate care
- Do ALS in warm zone?
 - Hardened in place
 - Difficult extrications
 - Dynamic scene



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7. Appropriate receiving facilities



- Trauma centers
 - Practice/Prepared
 - Understand that they may receive little or no notification
 - MD/RN response w/o MCI declaration
 - 1 Trauma surgeon- 1 EM Physician / pt

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Triage tags



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What saves lives

1. Have a plan
2. Threat suppression
3. Training
 - Public Safety
 - Lay People
4. TEMS
5. Rescue Task Force
6. Casualty Collection Points
7. Appropriate receiving facilities

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Tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue




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Role of Medical Director

- Check on well being
- Provide patient information and follow up
- Support to Bureau of Police
- News conferences
- Interviews
- After action reports




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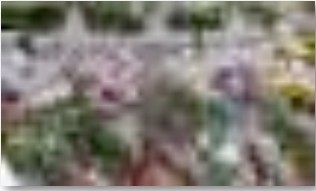

911 Call Takers and Dispatchers
 Police
 SWAT
 TEMS medics
 Rescue Task Force
 Transporting EMS
 On duty personnel not on scene
 Off duty personnel
 Hospital personnel



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Unexpected Consequences

2 degrees of separation Attack on the City

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“Today is not the worst day of your life...”



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What made things better

FAMILY

- Community support
- Colleague support
- Think about what went right

What went right

- All transported lived
- Millions of dollars collected in support of the Synagogue and public safety
- Unexpected test of active threat
- Shine light on hatred
- Now universal support for our Active Threat Training
- Public Safety - thanked by the community
- Opportunity to share what we have learned

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Counseling – What First Responders Anticipate



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Counseling - First Responders Expectations

• First visit



• Second visit



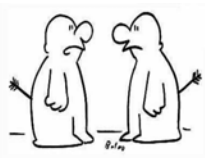
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Counseling – First Responders Theories on Trauma

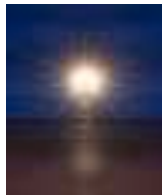


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What First Responders Want



Validation



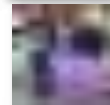
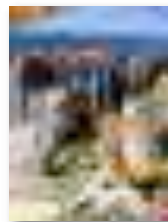
Guidance



Options

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Unexpected Consequences



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Thank You for
what you do!

Ron Roth, MD
rothrn@upmc.edu