

International Public Safety Association Statement about Acts of Mass Violence

Goodyear, Arizona – November 6, 2017

In the last 35 days we have seen an unfortunate and horrifying increase in acts of mass violence in the United States. In early October, a lone gunman opened fire on a crowd of innocent concert goers in Las Vegas resulting in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. On October 31, 2017, a terrorist who was inspired by ISIS, drove down a bike path and killed eight individuals in New York. And then on Sunday, November 5, 2017, a lone gunman opened fire and killed 26 during a church service in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

These acts of mass violence are challenging our nation, our communities and our emergency responders. It is incumbent on us – the International Public Safety Association – to provide education, training and resources to our communities and emergency responders so that we can build a stronger, more integrated public safety community capable of an effective joint response to all incidents.

It is the mission of the International Public Safety Association to provide cross-disciplinary training, education and resources to the entire public safety community. After the Las Vegas attack, the International Public Safety Association published its [Rescue Task Force Best Practices Guide](#), a detailed 46-page document designed to help first responders build an integrated, interagency response plan. In addition, an Issues Paper on Homegrown Violent Extremism is underway and being led by the Executive Director's [Policy Task Force](#). This paper will highlight HVE radicalization and recruitment as well as resiliency and recovery planning for first responders. Finally, registration is open for our [Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Incident Workshop and Tabletop Exercises](#) course during our 2018 Conference in Tempe, AZ. Attendees will review and discuss several video scenarios that include different types of radio traffic and response challenges like closing a freeway; children evacuating a school; IEDs as well as radio interoperability issues.

Because there is no end in sight to acts of mass violence, we must prepare our emergency responders and communities for response and recovery. Emergency responders must leverage available opportunities and resources. They must stay current on and apply best practices. Public safety executive leadership must support their staff in advancing their training, and they must apply lessons learned in training.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by Sunday's tragedy in Sutherland Springs, last week's event in New York and with the City of Las Vegas as they continue to recover.

About the International Public Safety Association

The International Public Safety Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in July 2014 in the State of Arizona to bring the public safety community closer together by offering opportunities to network, cross-train and build a stronger public safety community capable of an effective joint response to all incidents. www.joinipsa.org

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Source: International Public Safety Association