



Brentwood Police Department

272 Hanley Industrial Court
Brentwood, Missouri 63144
314-644-7100



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May 28, 2022

To Our Brentwood Residents, Businesses, and Schools:

On the heels of yet another horribly tragic and senseless school shooting in our country, I think it is important that your Brentwood Police Department share what we do to both try to *prevent* and to *prepare* for a violent incident in our schools and businesses.

Mass shootings have escalated significantly in America. The response by law enforcement agencies to an event in progress is mostly consistent that initial responding officers are to make entry and immediately address the threat. The below excerpt is from the General Order directives given to our BPD officers regarding active shooters:

Initial Responding Officer – Active Shooter/Dangerous Person:

1. An active shooter situation or other continuing use of deadly force, even after the arrival of law enforcement on the scene, *requires an immediate police response to threats when lives are in imminent danger*. In active shooter situations the likelihood of additional innocent persons being killed is very great if police action is not taken. Such perpetrators rarely include an escape in their plans and are prepared to commit suicide either by law enforcement or their own hand. Active shooter situations may include incidents occurring within a facility or in open public Area, including sniper incidents.

The following are directives, trainings, and strategies in place in the Brentwood PD to hopefully prevent a violent act, but also react to it should it occur:

The BPD regularly and consistently requires officers to train in Officer Safety role plays that address many of the challenges in law enforcement today. One of the scenarios we train is response to an active shooter. All of our officers participated in active shooter response training at Brentwood High School in late 2021. During this event the officers were assisted by school staff and students as actors.

BPD officers receive on-going training from the St. Louis County PD Tactical Team on responding to an active shooter (MACTAC). This is also role play based training requiring the officers to physically address an active shooter threat in training.

BPD Supervisors are required to participate in regular table-top exercises, some of which address the response to and command of an active shooter event.

There have been many times that suspects in mass shootings are able to barricade themselves in buildings while actively firing at people. Knowing this, the City of Brentwood and the BPD has supplied each police patrol vehicle with a set of breaching tools designed for entry into secured areas. These tools can be used by our officers to reach injured people, people at risk in a fire or other critical incident, and to get through barricades in an active shooter event. BPD officers are also equipped with state-of-



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the-art weapon systems, including a patrol rifle, which could be critical in addressing an active shooter, especially when deployed from a distance. Officers receive regular firearms training on both handguns and rifles to assure proficiency.

BPD has assigned Officer Amon Figgs as a School Resource Officer. PO Figgs has an excellent relationship with school officials and students. As part of his mission, PO Figgs becomes a first response to a violent act. Most importantly, he has become a key part of the prevention efforts to assure that an at-risk student is given proper attention. At-risk students are monitored by PO Figgs and our Department confidentially, infusing the parents, school officials, law enforcement, family courts, and professional counselors if needed into the process of helping the troubled student. PO Figgs is also required to do on going "health checks" with these at-risk students to assure they have the resources needed if they continue to exhibit problems. These follow up checks include social media monitoring. PO Figgs also liaisons with school officials giving advice on best practice and security assessments of their facilities regarding a potential violent act.

Along with school shootings, workplace violence continues to plague our country. BPD Sgt. Chris Gibson has been assigned to work with area businesses when they encounter problems with an employee. Many of the workplace shootings happen when businesses do not recognize warning signs and protect themselves from a potentially violent person. Sgt. Gibson and our Detective Bureau respond to these incidents to help our businesses with the process of investigation and termination of a potentially violent person.

Using best practice policy implementation, consistent and regular officer safety role play training, intervention tactics, and buying necessary tools, the City of Brentwood and the BPD is committed to providing the best protection of the people we serve. If citizens or businesses have specific questions, please forward them to either Major Angela Hawkins, the Community Policing Commander, or me at ahawkins@brentwoodmo.org and jspiess@brentwoodmo.org respectively. Thank you for your support of our officers and the Brentwood PD.

Colonel Joseph Spiess

Chief of Police