

## **Penobscot County Emergency Management Spotlights Active Threat Training**

Emergency Management (EM) training is based on a number of things. First, we determine the current threats and hazards within our geographical area as well as current events happening around the world. Emergency Managers within EM as well as our area partners, including healthcare, support agencies whether local, state or federal, municipalities and first responders complete a risk assessment to identify what exactly our risks are and the severity of each. With those threats identified, we then look at the overall response to each and any possible gaps that can be overcome with training and/or exercises. Another way we identify training is based on an agency's need. This is determined by their corrective actions from exercising their response plans on a specific event. EMA puts this information into a three-year training and exercise plan that also goes into the State's Training & Exercise Plan.

Over the last two years, active threats, whether they are shootings within schools, malls, businesses, etc., or homegrown terrorism has been a top priority for us. During 2018, Penobscot County EMA offered the Department of Homeland Security's Active Shooter Preparedness Workshop which consisted of a full day of how organizations can enhance their preparedness against active threat incidents by developing plans, identifying strengths and weaknesses or gaps in your physical security and how you can possibly prevent an active threat incident by recognizing behavioral indicators on the pathway to violence. Due to the demand of this course, a second session was offered.

This year, Penobscot County EMA was asked to co-sponsor another active threat course with the University of Maine, Orono Campus. Campus Active Shooter Integrated Response, facilitated by expert instructors through LSU and the Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education provided by the Department of Homeland Security, is being delivered to campus administrators and facility, local law enforcement, fire/ems, area businesses and faith-based organizations. This course is designed to discuss case studies of past active shooter events, applicable survival techniques, initial patient management and integrated concepts that can be used to mitigate an active shooter incident. This course will allow responders to enhance their response skills to better improve the chance of survival in an active threat event.

We hope these courses will help strengthen the partnerships between all agencies and provide the knowledge for us if and when we need to respond to such an event if it were to happen here.

Michelle LaBree, Director  
Penobscot County EMA

