

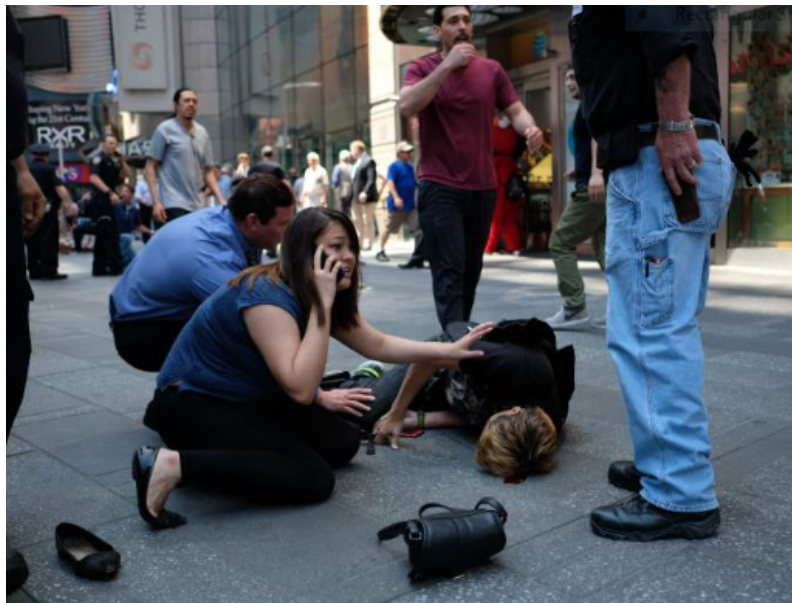
Practical Lifesaving Solutions Review – Times Square, New York

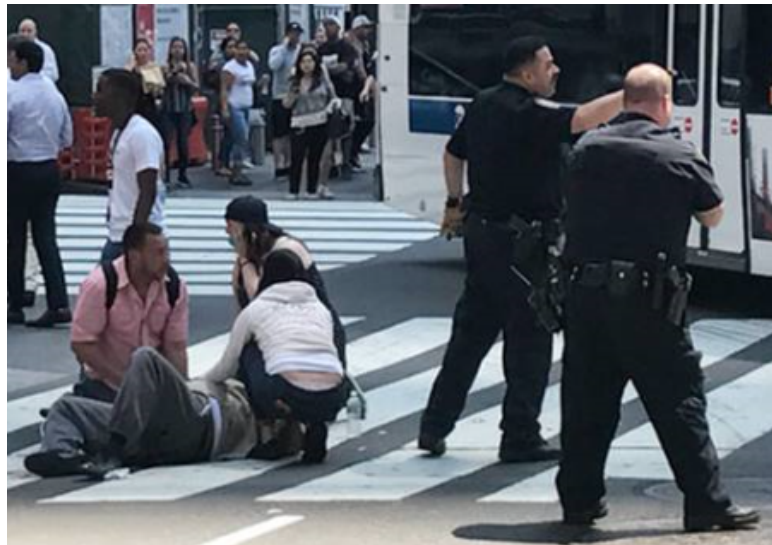
On Thursday, May 18, 2017, at approximately 11:55 am, Richard Rojas, age 26, was driving south on 7th Avenue when he made a quick U-turn onto a sidewalk at 42nd Street and sped along it for three and one half blocks, hitting multiple pedestrians until crashing at 45th Street. One individual was killed and 22 were injured. After Rojas crashed, he fled the car but was detained by police and civilians and taken into custody.

According to a criminal complaint filed on May 19, 2017, Rojas claimed to have told a traffic safety officer, ***“I wanted to kill them,”*** after crashing his Honda Accord. Rojas appeared in Criminal Court in Manhattan and was formally charged with murder and 20 counts of attempted murder. A statement from the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office proclaimed Rojas went on a ***“murderous rampage”*** to kill as many people as possible and afterward stated that the police should have shot him.

Similar to the Nice, France attack on July 14, 2016 and the Berlin Christmas market attack on December 19, 2016, a vehicle was used as the weapon. While the motivations of Rojas may be different than those of Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel (Nice) and Anis Amri (Berlin), his intentions were the same; to inflict as much damage on a civilian population as possible.

The pictures below reinforce the view that the true first responders will be those people on the scene, even when law enforcement has arrived. The ***“Good Samaritan”*** will be there to call 911 and give whatever support and aid they are capable of. As we have quoted in the past from the ***“Stop The Bleed Campaign”*** website (<https://www.dhs.gov/stopthebleed>), ***“No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene.”***





Summary

Previous reviews have discussed the importance of situational awareness. People often do not pay attention to their surroundings as they walk about cities during day light hours. They feel safe and secure amongst their fellow commuters and residents. How often do we see people walking with headphones on listening to music, having phone conversations, texting, etc.? Those that do so have severely reduced their reaction time. Their ability to hear or sense an approaching assailant, gun shots, screams, sounds of a vehicular impact, etc., have been diminished. Practicing good situational awareness is important in our effort to avoid becoming a victim.

Empowering people through training and access to trauma kits will enable them to respond with a greater ability and confidence to assist the injured. While not practical to provide kits and bleeding control stations on our public streets, we can ensure our schools, businesses, banks, houses of worship, etc., have access to these products.