

Practical Lifesaving Solutions Review – Freeman High School Active Shooter, Spokane, Washington

On Wednesday, September 13, 2017, sophomore high school student, Caleb Sharpe, shot and killed one student and seriously wounded three others. Below is a partial reprint of a news article which appeared in The Spokesman-Review describing the event.

As you read the article, focus on the actions taken during the active shooter phase as well as in the immediate aftermath. During the shooting, a school custodian approached and tackled Sharpe maintaining custody and control until Deputies arrived and made the arrest. The principles of **“run, hide, fight,”** are becoming more ingrained as these situations continue to occur and training has become more prevalent and standardized. Rather than be a victim, the custodian chose to **“fight.”**

In the immediate aftermath, those capable of providing first aid, did so. Once again we see that the true first responders are those already on scene. They will use whatever they can and rely on the training they have to provide life sustaining first aid until a higher level of care arrives.

PLS maintains that active shooter and trauma care training combined with publicly available bleeding control stations and products is the responsible way forward. In these situations, self-reliance is what may determine whether one survives.

SPOKANE

One student dead, three in hospital after classmate opens fire at Freeman High School

UPDATED: Wed., Sept. 13, 2017, 8:49 p.m.

A sophomore boy brought a rifle and a handgun to Freeman High School just as classes were starting Wednesday morning, killing one student and seriously injuring three others, according to witnesses and investigators.

Numerous students, including several who witnessed the shooting, identified the shooter as Caleb Sharpe. They said he rode a bus to school Wednesday with the guns stashed in a duffel bag.

Witnesses described a bloody, chaotic scene in a second-floor hallway just outside a biology classroom.

“I was putting my backpack away and I heard a loud pop, and I turned around. He was walking around,” said Elisa Vigil, a 14-year-old freshman. “He had his pistol. His face was completely passive. He shot someone in the head. I crouched down in the hall. I looked up and a girl screamed, ‘Help me, help me, help me.’ The hall was empty. She was shot in the back. I looked to my right, and there was a boy and he was shot in the head.”

The shooting killed one teenage boy, Sam Strahan, and sent three teenage girls to the emergency room at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center. They are Emma Nees, Jordyn Goldsmith and Gracie Jensen.

Hospital officials said all three patients were in stable condition and one was expected to undergo surgery on Wednesday. In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, there had been conflicting reports about the number of people injured.

Freeman High School serves more than 300 students southeast of Spokane. The shooting began shortly after 10 a.m. and lasted only about a minute, prompting lockdowns at dozens of schools in neighboring districts, as well as a massive response by local, state and federal agencies.

Authorities did not name the shooter, but Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said at an afternoon news conference that the sole suspect was being held in the county's juvenile detention center. Numerous students identified the shooter as Sharpe.

After law enforcement officials interviewed more than 100 people, a motive for the shooting started to come into focus.

"It sounds like a case of a bullying type of situation," Knezovich said, without elaborating.

The shooter's first gun jammed before he pulled out the second one, and another student approached him to try to intervene. That student is believed to be Strahan; authorities did not identify the victims by name.

"That student was shot, and that student did not survive," Knezovich said.

Witnesses said a school custodian approached and tackled Sharpe. Knezovich said "the individual was already disabled" by the time a school resource deputy, who had been at the neighboring middle school, arrived at the scene. Deputies made the arrest without firing a shot, he said.

"We send our prayers out to the mother whose student is not coming home today," he said.

Teacher Led First Aid

Barratt Moland, 15, of Valleyford said he was at his lockers before the first period. He had just stepped into his math class when he heard what he thought was a balloon popping.

"Then more shots followed so I hit the deck," Moland said. "I dove underneath the desk."

Students rushed into the room as teacher Marty Jessett tried to close the door and blinds.

"When people came in, I noticed one of them had blood on them," Moland said. "That was Emma Nees. She was hit in the lower abdomen. She didn't even notice it for a second. She said it only grazed her."

But Moland said the teacher noticed that Nees, a freshman, had both entrance and exit wounds. He grabbed some athletic tape and marked both with an X.

“He said, ‘Barratt, put on these gloves,’” Moland said. “I applied pressure to her wound. She actually handled it surprisingly well. I was at a loss for words. I didn’t even know if I was applying pressure correctly.”

When emergency crews arrived for Nees, the students were led out the hallway and then into the biology room. Outside the room lay a body. Moland believed it was Strahan.

Note: The article is available in its entirety at <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/sep/13/shooting-reported-at-freeman-high-school/#/1>