

### **Practical Lifesaving Solutions Review – Firebirds Restaurant, Tucson, Arizona**

On Friday April 14, 2017 at approximately 7:30 pm, a shooting occurred inside the Firebirds Wood Fired Grill at the La Encantada Mall in Tucson, Arizona. Frederick Bair, age 60, and a captain with the Tucson Fire Department shot his ex-wife, Mary Jo Blair, age 57 and her companion, Elliot Cobb, age 66. He then turned the gun on himself taking his own life in an apparent murder - suicide. Bair killed Cobb and wounded his ex-wife. She was taken to a hospital and treated for her injuries.

It has been reported that Bair knew Cobb and that Cobb and Mary Jo Blair were friends on Facebook. The extent of the relationship between Mary Jo Blair and Cobb has not been disclosed. Pima County Superior Court records show that Frederick Bair's divorce was finalized in September, 2016.

According to a witness, ***"It looked like two gentlemen were fighting, it was hard to tell...I saw a gun come out and he [Bair] just shot him in the head right in front of us."***

The witness said the restaurant was full of people when she noticed something was happening at a nearby table. After the shooting, she saw the gunman grabbed the other man's companion by the arm and pushed her down a hallway. The witness heard two more gunshots while crawling on the ground for an exit.

As the shots were fired, patrons began screaming and running out of the restaurant. Some people took cover under their tables. One witness claimed to have heard about 10 shots. Witnesses said after the shots, Firebirds employees started ushering people out the back door and to safety.

One witness stated, ***"They ushered everybody to safety and (it was) very orderly. I have to tell you that waitstaff, the people inside Firebirds, did a great job handling everything."***

A Facebook posting by Bair on the Rincon High School Alumni site disclosed his younger brother died on April 10, 2017 of diabetes related complications and services and burial were held on April 13, 2017.

### **Summary**

Jealousy, envy, feelings of betrayal, etc., have long been motives for acts of violence. Any one of which could have been the catalyst for Bair's actions. The recent loss of his brother could have been another contributing factor. A restaurant is just another venue where scores of people are in close proximity to one another and susceptible to being killed or wounded. As is so often the case, Bair took his own life after killing Cobb and wounding his ex-wife.

While none of the patrons were wounded in the shooting, the results could have been much different. Acts of violence can occur anywhere and the collateral damage to bystanders just as devastating as if they were the intended targets. This was the case in the recent North Park Elementary School shooting in San Bernardino, California on April 10, 2017. While the intended victim of Cedric Anderson was his estranged wife, Karen Smith, two of her students were also shot. One was killed and the other survived.

Whether it be work place violence, an active shooter or any aggrieved person seeking to harm others, the vulnerability of the general public is ever present. Providing trauma training and having the necessary supplies available will enable people to act in the immediate aftermath of an event. The

restaurant employees reacted quickly and were the true ***“first responders.”*** As was the case in the recent Equinox shooting of April 8, 2017 and the North Park Elementary shooting, the shooter committed suicide at the scene. The restaurant workers who had the presence of mind to assist patrons in the evacuation could have rendered aid to others.

Malls traditionally employ a security or guard force. Providing them with the training and trauma kits would also allow them as responders to render aid. This represents a huge value added for any guard force. They can be trained, carry individual kits as well as multiple kits contained in a “Go Bag.” At the end of the day, it will be the people on scene who are the ***“first responders.”*** They will be the ones to act and they can be provided a more robust means to do so.