

Toronto's Greektown Shooting

On Sunday, July 22, 2018, 2 people were killed and 13 others injured when a man fired a handgun into restaurants and cafes before being killed after an exchange of gunfire with police. A video from one witness shows a man dressed in black clothes and a black hat walking quickly and firing 3 shots from the sidewalk into at least one shop or restaurant in Toronto's Greektown, a lively residential area with crowded Greek restaurants and cafes.



We have provided a link to an article from MSN News which features a number of witness statements. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/two-dead-12-injured-in-danforth-shooting-rampage/ar-BBKYYxG?li=BBnb7Kz>). While it can be read in its entirety, we have focused on a few excerpts.

Stavy Karnouskou was standing with a few friends outside Logo bar on the south side of Danforth, east of Logan Ave. "I heard 'pop, pop' and then I turned because I thought it was fireworks ... and then the mother of a friend of mine goes, 'They're shooting at us — run inside!'" Karnouskou said.

Situational Awareness is critical. Simply put, we need to be aware of what is happening around us so we can act appropriately and without delay. Many people have never heard a gunshot, yet we have all heard the sound of firecrackers. Recognizing that someone is shooting at or near us allows us to react rather than freeze and lose precious time. Fractions of seconds count when confronted with violence.

"Another co-worker, Nick, a waiter, tells him to come in and grabs him and we hear two more bangs. And Nick goes, 'F-, he shot me. Call 911, call an ambulance.' And he's got blood pouring off his hand. We think it was a ricochet off the door handle."

Kozaris said he called 911 and was on hold for several minutes before someone ran outside to grab a police officer. The officer, he said, told his co-worker that an ambulance would come but he'd have to wait.

"Nick is losing blood. It's everywhere, and he's starting to pass out," Kozaris said, so a friend drove him to nearby Michael Garron Hospital.

We have often discussed the reality that you are the help until help arrives. People can bleed out in a matter of minutes. Without immediate care, people with otherwise survivable wounds can succumb to blood loss. Having access to trauma care products such as those stocked in public access bleeding control stations will enable one another to treat themselves until a higher level of medical care arrives. We can assist others as we wait for emergency medical personnel to get to us, especially when there may be multiple victims and the scene is not secure. This individual recognized the exigency of the situation and took the initiative to transport his friend rather than wait for the ambulance. He had the confidence and wherewithal to make a very difficult decision.

About 10 minutes after the gunfire, Karnouskou went outside and saw two women on the ground, with bystanders trying to save them by doing chest compressions.

"One of them, I could see her legs were blue," Karnouskou said, her voice trembling as she put her hand over her mouth. "I wanted to help her but didn't know what to do."

In addition to having trauma products available, people need to be trained. As we have seen time and time again, it's the people in the midst of the crisis who are always the first to help one another. They will use the skills they have and improvise what they need to stop the bleeding and provide the level of care they are capable of. Good Samaritans will rise to the occasion and assist one another, but they need the basic first aid skills to have the confidence and ability they need to be successful.



Area in the Vicinity of the Shooting



You Are the Help Until Help Arrives

PLS has provided trauma kits, public access bleeding control stations and the requisite training to banks, college campuses, public schools, law enforcement, religious institutions and other businesses. These institutions have chosen to equip themselves with the trauma products and education that will provide for the immediate assistance needed, rather than rely on improvisation.

Isn't it time you make the investment to safeguard those in your school, workplace and congregation? Please visit our website at www.lifesaving.company or call (512) 820-4554 to find out how we can help you.

