



Fairfield Police Department

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James F Wiltsie
School Safety Division
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As we learn the details of the incomprehensible tragedy that took place at the private Covenant School in Nashville Tennessee I want to remind all of you that the Fairfield Police School Safety Division is dedicated to continually working to maximize the safety of our many school communities.

It is unfortunate that we live in a society where these incidents occur. We as a community are fortunate to have a team of six dedicated full-time officers with years of experience whose sole mission is the safety and security of our public and private schools in the Town of Fairfield.

The Fairfield Police School Safety Division consistently trains for these types of incidents on a regular basis. Our officers take these skills and train faculty and staff to be ready if the unthinkable occurs. Part of this important training is closely analyzing these types of incidents to assess what went right and what areas we can improve in. We apply these lessons learned to our Lockdown Drills and teacher training. Below are a few items taken from the

Covenant School incident:

- There was a suicidal text message received by a friend. We have to stay vigilant in reporting these behaviors, and avoid tunnel vision; significant data shows school shooters are or have been suicidal in the past.
- There was a manifesto. Manifestos are one of the most urgent red flags and need to be reported and addressed immediately. The shooter had conducted research on the location and was a former student of the school.
- Entry was gained by shooting through a glass door. With warmer weather approaching we must remain vigilant in ensuring all doors are secure and not propped open. Propped doors instantly undermine all security infrastructure upgrades, so please police yourselves and your colleagues.
- According to the surveillance, it appears the building did go into lockdown. This incident is a sad reminder of why we conduct multiple lockdown drills throughout the academic year. Lockdown drills allow staff to train and react competently under stress. How you train is how you will perform.

The Fairfield Police School Safety Division would like to remind parents, faculty, and staff there is strength in numbers and that we all are responsible for the safety and security of our public and private schools. We will continue to build, respect, and value the partnership we have with our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,
James F Wiltsie
Sergeant
School Safety Division