

Emergency Response Shields Improve School Safety

The Problem:

- Recent events, including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting in Parkland, FL, demonstrate the need for improved protection against active shooters.
- Individuals in schools currently have no protective equipment available to them in an active shooter event.
- Time and time again, teachers, coaches, staff, and students use their bodies to shield others from bullets, and they pay the ultimate price.



Emergency Response Shields as a Solution:

- Armor stops bullets, saves lives, and provides peace of mind.
- The Hardwire Emergency Response Shield is a tool that can be used for protection from gunfire until first responders arrive.
- The shields stop ammunition from assault rifles, handguns, and shotguns (NIJ Level 3).
- The shields are 18" x 20" in size – large enough to cover the vital torso area but not too large to prohibit movement or carrying.
- The shields weigh only 11 pounds and are easy to hold.
- The Emergency Response Shields empower teachers and students because they feel capable of protecting themselves.



Implementation:

- By code, fire extinguishers are mandated in public facilities to be accessible within 75 – 100 feet (depending on state) of any building occupant. Fire extinguishers are required by law in order to provide an emergency device to fight fire, and are only one part of a comprehensive fire protection and response plan.
- Placing a shield at the same locations as all fire extinguishers in a building is a simple way to take advantage of existing code and add a standard tool to deal with an active shooter emergency.
- Equipment must be deployed in a way that is easy to find, understand, and use in the event of an emergency.
- Simple directions, like those on a fire extinguisher, are provided on the shields.
- Shields are installed with a standard fire extinguisher hanger and appropriate fastener (cinderblock, drywall, etc.).
- Shields are only one part of the active shooter solution, but are a prudent and cost effective way to immediately improve safety.

