What the Communication Failures of the

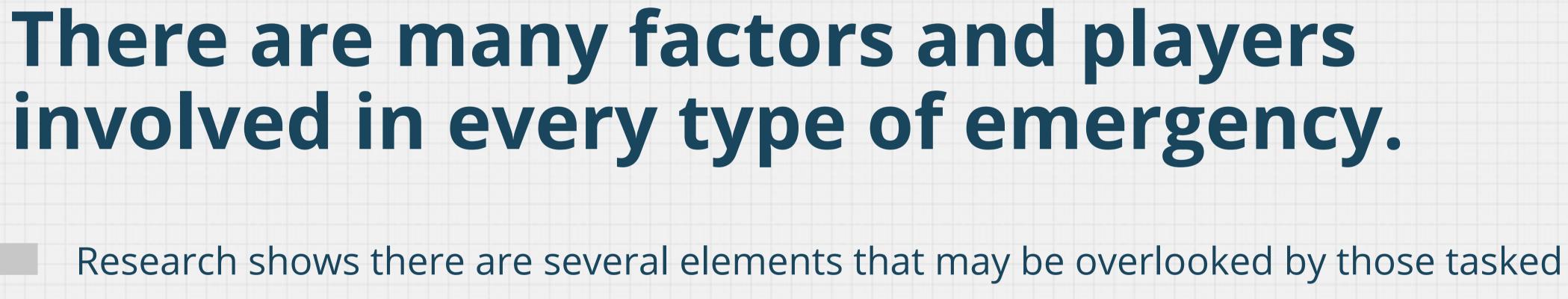
Parkland School Shooting

Can Teach Us About

Emergencies

the 6-minute Parkland shooting. The Marjory <u>Stoneman Douglas High School Public</u> Safety Commission Report highlighted a range of communication failures that school administrators and public safety agencies can learn from and apply these lessons to the wide range of emergencies happening in schools every day.

Seventeen students and staff members died in



with school safety as they explore available solutions. It's a fact of life that incidents don't always unfold as expected.

Does your plan account for these important factors?

Just under

incidents of crime in schools take place in either a classroom or bathroom.

Source



accounts for the fact that an attack may happen anywhere.

and a flexible solution that

You need to have a response plan

If your solution is limited to classroom use, you're going to

be high and dry if an incident happens elsewhere.

the number of classrooms that Nicholas Cruz, the

gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, entered when he brought a gun to the school and killed 17 people. **Source**

shooter situations by putting classrooms into lockdown, the tragedy in Parkland shows that this is not always a safe solution, especially when

While many schools respond to active

of active shooter incidents last < 5 minutes officers arrive before the end of incidents only

Source

In a study of targeted

from 1974–2000,

violent school incidents

of the time.

of the attackers were current students at

Response time must be improved

needed, especially in cases like

A quick on-site response is

active shooters.

by those on the scene and first responders.

the school. Source Although

of the surveyed schools

reported having a medical

emergency-response plan,

can prevent an incidents before they occur.

In incidents such as an active shooter,

students, faculty and staff may be

aware of a troubled person.

important so you can

Running detailed safety drills are

account for every variable

response that is required.

tested it during a drill. **Source**

of the schools had not

seriously injured on a sports field, will you have a way to alert staff and 9-1-1?

and understand the

For example, if a student is

incident and dispatch help.

9-1-1 call takers are already overloaded during an emergency, and dealing with a flood of calls makes it difficult for them to respond to the

inside the building and some from parents who were calling on behalf of students. <u>Source</u>

the number of calls that 9-1-1

the Parkland shooting, with

some calls from students

received in the first minutes of

so they don't hamper 9-1-1 response efforts.

you have a way to communicate? Communication redundancy is key The number of officers

that described radios that did not work. Source

interviewed as part of the

commission's investigation

for internal staff communication, as well as coordination with law enforcement.

If your radios went down, would

easier in the aftermath of an emergency, but it's much harder to pinpoint specific shortcomings before they occur. Communication plays a large role in

Spotting oversights and failures is

the success or failure of an emergency response, so take the time now to identify communication hurdles that may exist in your school safety plans and procedures.



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