

IU Health BMH offers trauma injury training to Delaware, Jay and Blackford county schools

Mary Freda, mfreda@muncie.gannett.com Published 10:02 a.m. ET Aug. 8, 2018 | Updated 5:13 p.m. ET Aug. 8, 2018



Buy Photo

(Photo: Jordan Kartholl / Star Press)

MUNCIE, Ind. — One month after a shooting that killed three staff members and 14 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, then Burriss sophomores Leigh Kumpe and Emma Davis stood outside for 17 minutes to honor each victim. Fullscreen

Stop the Bleed gives life-saving skills to students, faculty

“It was intense, because it felt like no one really knew what to do, it was scary, and I’m now 16 years old. “We’re all too young. We can’t go out and vote, and we can’t go out and do things that could actually promote change. So, we wanted to participate because it was something that affects all of us, and it affects people everywhere.”

“We knew that not being able to go out and make change, we could at least start to make change where we were.”

That change included encouraging administrators to be more transparent with students while asking for student input.

“We all kind of talked about what happened and the severity of what happened and how just after Parkland, there were a lot more school shootings,” Davis said. “We talked about how we can’t just accept that that’s normal, and we have to speak out that that’s not normal because kids our age are dying.”

► **RELATED:** [Muncie Community Schools linking its security cameras to 911 center \(/story/news/education/2018/08/08/muncie-community-schools-linking-911-center/936364002/\)](https://www.thestarpress.com/story/news/education/2018/08/08/muncie-community-schools-linking-911-center/936364002/)

Now, both Davis and Kumpe are taking precautions to help their fellow classmates in case of an active shooter scenario.



Student Hazel Crow (right) applies a tourniquet to Jennifer Johnson during a Stop the Bleed training session headed by IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital at Burris High School Tuesday afternoon. (Photo: Jordan Kartholl / Star Press)

A new-ish type of training

In addition to after-school activities like band, soccer and student council, Burris students had the option to participate in trauma injury training two days before the 2018-19 academic year began.

To bring trauma injury training to the lowest level, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital reached out to schools across Delaware, Jay and Blackford counties to help students sign up for Stop the Bleed — an initiative spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2015 to prepare the public through raised awareness on how to stop life-threatening bleeding using basic skills.

Now, Burris Laboratory School has the first group of high schoolers in Delaware County to participate. There have been conversations with other schools, said Donna Barttrum, trauma department injury prevention coordinator at BMH.

ADVERTISEMENT

“We just wanted to get it out in the schools, and we felt like that a lot of times those students are in the classrooms and if they were trained, then it would be — we would have someone in each classroom to be able to assist if there was ever an emergency,” Barttrum said.

“Parents’ Expectations of High Schools in Firearm Violence Prevention,” a 2017 study conducted by Jagdish Khunchandani, Ball State University health science professor, found nearly one-third of surveyed parents believed their local high school is susceptible to a firearm incident, like an active shooter situation, in the next three years.

In 2015, Khunchandani conducted a similar study that measured principal’s attitudes toward reducing firearm violence in high schools. Of those surveyed, 41 percent said they perceived their schools to be susceptible to a firearm incident in the next three years.

In both studies, principals and parents found training students to attack or subdue an armed gunman less effective than creating safety plans, working with law enforcement and requiring a school resource officer in the school.

“What are we trying to do in schools? Impart education and graduate good citizens with a sense of lifelong learning and responsibility,” Khunchandani said in an email. “In the midst of that fundamental aim of schools, we are now thinking of options such as arming teachers and training students to deal with a gunman. This is very unfortunate ... For our study, we had to include this option of response due to the prevailing dialog about this type of defense.”

Training day

During training Tuesday, Burris faculty members are chatty, like longtime school friends who haven't seen one another in ages. Tables of four, sometimes five or six, tuck their too-tall legs under wooden tables. They sit sideways, directing their attention to the front of the muggy room.

One room devotes its attention to tourniquet application, while another is dedicated to wound packing.

Each flesh-colored, silicone leg is defaced with brown gunshot, knife and penetrating wounds. The task is straightforward, simple: participants must stop the bleeding.

However, Trauma Program Manager at Ball Memorial Kelli Vannatter said, it's not as easy as it seems. What appears to be a shallow wound can use up a roll of gauze, she said.

About an hour later, 15 Burris students participate in the same training. Though there is chattiness during the demonstration, students limit the conversation to asking about how the tourniquet fits and feels.

In a scenario where bystanders are injured, a tourniquet is meant to stop arm or leg wounds from bleeding. However, the one-time use armband can't be used for penetrative wounds on the chest or abdomen.

The tourniquet shouldn't be placed below the wound or on a joint, like the elbow or knee: High and tight, Vannatter and Barttrum agreed.

Trauma injury training techniques like applying tourniquets and packing the wound help increase a person's chance of surviving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of EMS, a wounded person can die from blood loss within five minutes. Though tourniquets might be uncomfortable they shouldn't be removed after application, Barttrum said.

If for some reason the first tourniquet wasn't successful at stopping the blood, Barttrum advised students to apply another tourniquet until blood flow ceases. Additionally, she said the time the device was applied should be written visibly on the injured person's body.

Choosing a program

According to Indiana Code 20-34-3-20, Indiana schools are required to do one man-made occurrence drill per semester, which can include a student disturbance, a weapon/weapon of mass destruction, contamination of water or air supply and hostage or kidnapping incidents.

Though drills are required, supplemental training like Stop the Bleed is not. However, schools are opting to implement additional training.

Ball State University Police Chief Jim Duckham said the university chose to implement Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training in May 2017.

"I think violence, active shooter stuff has obviously become a concern of our campus community," Duckham said.

Since its inception, the program, which teaches avoid, deny, defend, has garnered around 5,000 participants. When scouting programs from the university, Duckham said it was important the program have a transferable skill set, meaning the skills would extend beyond a university environment.

Though UPD offers CRASE training to both staff and students, it currently only offers Stop the Bleed to its officers. Duckham said offering a university-wide program might be something to look at.

In addition to training like Stop the Bleed and CRASE, schools are foregoing risks by updating policies. After the May 25 Noblesville West Middle School shooting, the school district updated its school safety policies.

[What Noblesville parents need to know about school safety before classes start Aug. 1 \(/story/news/education/2018/07/25/what-noblesville-parents-need-know-school-safety/832931002/\)](#)

In addition to more officers, keeping backpacks in lockers, limiting access to schools, a more rigorous mental health support system and a \$50-million wish list, the district was one of many across Indiana to request handheld metal detectors. In July, Gov. Eric Holcomb announced a state program that would provide one handheld metal detector for every 250 students at no cost to any traditional public, charter or private schools that request them, according to a press release.

Like Noblesville, several Delaware County school districts requested the handheld detectors, including Indiana Academy, 1; Burris Laboratory School, 2; Cowan Community School Corporation, 2; Delaware Community School Corporation, 9; and Muncie Community Schools, 17.

Seeing a shift

For the last 20 years, active shooter training has been conducted by local law enforcement. However, awareness of active shooter and mass shooting events has increased, said Jason Rogers.

Active shooter events such as Noblesville, Rogers said, are a call for schools to review how they respond to similar scenarios. This response could be a lockdown or active shooter drill, a man-made disaster drill or even trauma injury training.

“They’ve got to go hand in hand. You got to have both (active shooter and trauma injury training),” he said. “To get from Point A to Point B, you got to have (an) engine and wheels. So, both of those types of trainings, and it’s adaptable.”

Though Rogers said it’s difficult to plan for the unknown, the law enforcement community trains for the worst-case scenario. The key to the training, he said, is repetition.

“We need to mentally prepare them through repetition. If that is securing classrooms or whatever the plan is or maybe evacuate the building or how they would respond in these high-stress situations,” Rogers said. “We need to be very forthright in the things that happen in today’s society. So, it is sometimes very blunt, but it saves lives when the teachers and staff have these trainings.”

Although schools can’t disclose their safety plans, Adam Baker, press secretary with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), said there’s been an increase in the numbers of schools that choose to conduct active shooter drills, according to the safety plans IDOE reviews.

Mary Freda is an intern at the Star Press. Follow her on Twitter @Mary_Freda1, and email her story ideas: mfreda@muncie.gannett.com.

Buy Photo 



Student Jennifer Johnson (right) applies a tourniquet to Hazel Crow during a Stop the Bleed training session headed by IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital at Burris High School Tuesday afternoon. (Photo: Jordan Kartholl / Star Press)

Read or Share this story: <https://tspne.ws/2KD1BHd>