

ANTIGO PROM SHOOTING 2016

April 23, 2016
Antigo, Wisconsin

ANTIGO, WI

- County seat of Langlade County
- Three hours northwest of Milwaukee
- One and one half hours west of Green Bay
- Population of 8,004
- One high school / one middle school
- Three elementary schools
- Two private schools



ANTIGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 15 sworn Officers
- Including Chief and Captain
- Three - eight hour shifts



ANTIGO HIGH SCHOOL

- 808 students
- Built in 1994
- Multiple athletics and activities
- Large campus with separate aquatic center
- Tennis, football practice area, track and field all on campus



LOCATION

- Antigo High School, located at 1900 10th Avenue
- Located on the outskirts of city limits, southwest corner
- Residential housing to the east of the school
- Farm fields around the school on the north, west and south side.

ANTIGO HIGH SCHOOL



SCHOOL DANCE PROTOCOL

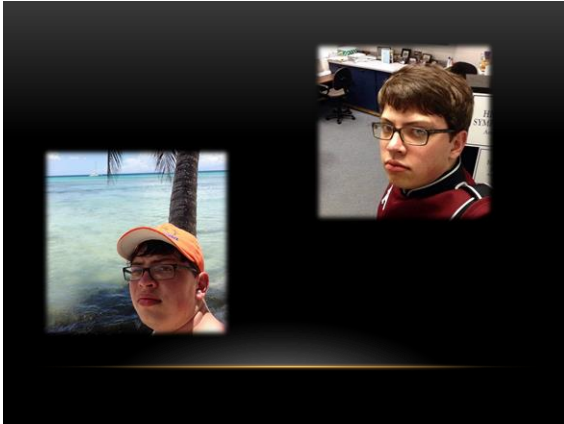
- Homecoming, Winter Ball, Prom
- Student Council and Class Advisors serve as chaperones
- One administrator assigned -
- Focus on safe environment at dances, student intoxication or drug use has become a non-issue
- Visitor Dance Forms Required
 - All visitor dance forms are reviewed by School Liaison Officer
- Students are made aware that once they leave the dance they may not return
- Decline in student attendance at dances in recent years

ANTIGO HIGH SCHOOL PROM 2016

- Prom was held on April 23, 2016 in the field house / gymnasium. Several hundred students and families attended the ceremony
- All normal dance protocol were followed
- Students begin to arrive as early as 6:30 pm
- Grand March is scheduled for 8 PM, a large number of spectators arrive to watch the grand march.
- Once the dance begins and students are having a good time the school administration will turn over the supervision to the student council advisors and chaperones.
- The dance is scheduled to end at 11:30 to avoid student drivers being on the road after midnight.

SUSPECT

- 2014 Antigo High School Alumnus
- High School band member
- Lived with his Mother in Antigo
- No issues while attending school
- Assisted in the band and art rooms after graduation up until the time of the incident



SUSPECT

- Recently broke up with his girlfriend just prior to the incident
- Ex-girlfriend intended on going to prom with her new boyfriend
- Had an interest in guns and purchased an SKS rifle and ammo for target practicing.

SUSPECTS ACTIVITIES THAT DAY

- April 23, 2016 the went hiking with mother.
- They got lost while hiking and arrived home late.
- Went to his room and his mother went to bed.
- Conceals his SKS rifle in a guitar case. Fills his pockets with ammo.
- Rides his bicycle towards the Antigo High School.
- Leaves his bike and guitar case in a grassy area on the far east grounds of the High School and runs through the parking lot to the High School Office door entrance.
- His approach to the High School building is caught on video.

WAGNER'S APPROACH



INITIAL OFFICERS



Andrew Hopfensperger

Ryan Bula

INITIAL OFFICERS



K-9 Natscho

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

- Officers Andrew Hopfensperger, Officer Ryan Bula and K9 Natscho are directed to patrol the High School while prom was in session.
- Hopfensperger, Bula, and Natscho ride together in Bula's Squad to the High School and arrive just before 11:00 p.m.

WAGNER'S APPROACH





POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT CONT...



THE SHOOTING

- Officer Hopfensperger is near the front of the High School and hears what he believes are firecrackers.
- Hopfensperger's view was obstructed by the music trailer.
- As Hopfensperger came around the trailer, he observed four students on the side in front of the school, screaming for help.

THE SHOOTING

- Officer Hopfensperger then observed Wagner with his rifle up to his shoulder approaching the four students.
- Officer Hopfensperger drew his weapon and ran towards Wagner, ordering him to drop his weapon.
- Wagner turned his rifle towards Hopfensperger.
- Hopfensperger fired his weapon, striking Wagner three times.

THE SHOOTING



POST SHOOTING EVENTS

- Officer Hopfensperger renders aid to Wagner and calls for assistance.
- Other Officers were near by during the incident.
- Deputy Tom Connelly was across 10th Avenue in the student parking lot when Hopfensperger called for assistance.
- Connelly was the first backup Officer on the scene.

POST SHOOTING EVENTS – DEPUTY THOMAS CONNELLY SQUAD VIDEO



POST SHOOTING EVENTS – APRIL 23RD

- Within 45 minutes Antigo High School and District Level Administrators have been notified and arrive at the High School.
- Review of Crisis Plan
- At approximately 2:30 am the building is cleared by Police and Administration is able to enter the building.
- Administration assists Police Department and Department of Justice as they conduct their investigation
- Plans are made to meet the following morning

POST SHOOTING EVENTS – APRIL 24TH

- 11 am - Law Enforcement and School Officials meet to discuss incident and plan for the coming days.
 - Agreement that media request will be directed to Antigo Police Chief Eric Roller and Superintendent Designee Brian Misfeldt
 - Police Department and School District will coordinate to ensure consistent information is released.
- Meetings continued throughout the day to plan for return to school on April 25th
 - Security Measures
 - Handling of Media
 - Counselors/Clergy
 - Administrative Coverage
 - Building Preparations/Maintenance
- Meeting with School Counselors
- High School Staff Meeting – 3 pm

POST SHOOTING EVENTS – APRIL 25TH

- All buildings hold AM staff meetings
- School schedules run as normal
- Administrative and school counseling presence at each building
- Clergy and Northcentral Healthcare Staff presence at High School and Middle School
- Greeter at High School entrance
- Police presence at High School and Middle School
- Media event planned by law enforcement for 2:00 pm off school grounds
- Debriefing meeting held with staff at the end of the day

WEEK OF APRIL 25TH

- Continued to provide additional administrative support at High School
- Continued counseling support at Middle School and High School
- Daily debriefing sessions
- Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Dog Ministry
- On going collaboration between police department and school district



MEDIA ASSISTANCE

- USDA Administration connected with Joe Donovan of The Donovan Group
 - Communications firm focused on Education
 - No cost to Wisconsin School Districts – Contracted through AWSA and WASDA
 - Provided guidance on timeline and media lifespan
 - Advised administration regarding media protocol
 - Provided assistance in drafting statements
 - Provided talking points

“Every story has a fuel tank.”

POSITIVE TAKEAWAYS

- Positive relationship between agencies is essential
- Consistent communication
- Plan for media (onsite and phone calls)
- Release information early and often
- Return to normalcy as soon as possible
- Regular debriefing meetings
- Reinforced need for county-wide planning team
- Refer to crisis plan
- Utilize external resources
- Antigo Strong





AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Ensuring all individuals are aware of communication protocol
- Hard copies of crisis plan
- Communication with hospital
- Availability of keys for building
- Establish command center

LANGLADE EMERGENCY ACTION PLANNING (LEAP)

- Consists of representatives from:
 - Langlade County Emergency Management
 - County school districts (Antigo, Elcho, White Lake)
 - Parochial schools (All Saints Catholic School, Peace Lutheran School)
 - Antigo Police Department
 - Antigo Fire Department
 - Langlade Hospital
 - Langlade Sheriffs Office
- Monthly Meetings
- Develop consistent procedures and communication protocol
- Address safety concerns

LEAP ACTIONS TO DATE

- Coordinated camera systems to allow law enforcement access to Antigo School District cameras
- Planning for access to Elcho School District and Langlade Hospital cameras
- Created "Go Bags"
- Coordinating County-wide ALICE Training
- FOBs in every squad car

NIKITA DEEP INTERVIEW



THANK YOU...

- Antigo Police Department
- Langlade County Sheriff's Office
- Antigo Fire Department
- Merrill Police Department
- Tomahawk Police Department
- Rhinelander Police Department
- Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
- Medford Police Department
- Wausau Police Department
- Marathon County Sheriff's Office
- Wisconsin State Patrol
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- North Central Health Care Center
- Aspirus Langlade Hospital
- Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Dog Ministry
- Clergy and Counselors
- School Districts and Communities from around the state and nation
