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SURVIVAL 101

■ **AQUIL BASHEER**

"I got my nine and I'm gonna be fine" Jerry said out loud, smiling. His ace buddy, Billy, whom had known since they were in elementary school, responded "What are you talking about Jerry, you got your nine?" Jerry opened his backpack and showed Billy what he

was talking about. WHOA, Billy said loudly, what you doing with that pistol in there!

Is that thing loaded? Jerry's response was "remember them three chumps that have been punking me the whole semester? I'm going to take care of them, soon, real soon! If any body else gets in my way it will be their bad day!" No, No, No, homes, you can't do that! Man, don't you know that will put you under the jail for a long time? Jerry spoke in a confident tone "It don't matter, I got to take care of this business.

On his way home Billy thought about the way Jerry had acted at school, He had never seen Jerry perform in that fashion. He always knew Jerry to be solid & down to earth. He surmised that Jerry was just having one of those days, but he was still extremely worried about that pistol.

Believe it or not, school shooting is a rare occurrence. The problem lies in the fact that when they occur they are usually accompanied with an extreme level of misery and grief. This can be related to the fact that we assume (and we assume correctly) that the school should be a safe haven for our children. There are some basic fundamental safety concerns that if adhered to could possibly save the life of your child and many others.

Every parent needs to assure themselves that their child's school had taken every precaution possible to prevent or avert the above scenario from taking place. The following should be mandatory in assessing the safety procedures that the school has in place. Also one must remember that you as a parent or guardian have a greater responsibility

in making sure you have prepared your child to deal with the destruction of a school shooting.

-Does the school have a crisis plan? What does it do & where is it kept? Is it in writing and can a copy be picked up and taken home?

-Is there an emergency response team in place that knows specifically what to do as well as being able to notify emergency help? Also who are the "contact persons" and what are their numbers.

-A "safe area" where students who are caught outside will know where to go and what to do in that area?

-A "pick up procedure" once the situation is under control.

-Mandatory "situational drilling" on how to respond to a shooting, when and how to take cover, when to attempt an escape, how to communicate the need for help.

-Does the school limit the "entry and egress" to the school by controlling the entrance to and exiting from the school?

-Are all visitors logged in and required to wear identification?

-A mandatory communication system in place to alert all individuals at the given school location that an emergency shooting has just taken place. In addition a communication capability that can be utilized from inside a classroom to notify outside help.

-A lock down procedure that closes off and locks all classrooms to outside personnel.

-A "command post" or specific area where all emergency responders, school officials, and parents can exchange information and be kept abreast of the situation.

Billy knew he would be late to school; he had an early doctor's appointment. When the commitment at the doctor's office was over his Mother had promised drop him back to school. As they were in route a special news bulletin came over the radio, there had been a major shooting at Billy's school. Eight were reported dead, 4 students, 1 school police, 2 instructors, and 1 parent! 3 were also reported severely injured.

SURVIVAL:

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When the announcer gave a description of the firearm that was used, either a 45 According to witnesses Jerry had told these young men that this was a bad day and they better leave him alone. At that point one of the young men hit Jerry across his face with his book bag. That was the final straw; Jerry hurriedly took the 9 mm out of his book bag and started firing.

As the school police and two instructors tried to assist, they were also shot and killed. Witnesses said Jerry walked towards the office looking for some of the boys who had run. He encountered a parent in the school office who seemed to control him, and then out of nowhere she was shot twice.

Apparently the boys mother (Mrs. Bullock) had been called by the school 2 hours before the shooting to discuss complaints about the boy's apparent bullying behavior. She was standing in the office area when Jerry passed by looking for his targets. She had seen Jerry holding the pistol and attempted

to tell him to put it down, she had seemingly won him over until Jerry saw one of the young men he had targeted out of the corner of his eye. He seemed to lose it at that point where he immediately began firing the pistol again. Mrs. Bullock was accidentally hit twice and died instantly.

As he was being taken into custody the police officers did not realize he had a second small caliber pistol in his jacket, he reached for that pistol and was told to put it down. Jerry just continued to smile; he had had enough and felt his work was done. Jerry raised the gun up above his chest and continued humming his song; he was shot 8 times and died on the spot. The officers did not realize he was in the process of attempting to surrender, the gun was empty!

If you find this story sad, remember most school shootings don't have a happy ending. Let take some precautions now and maybe, just maybe, we can save a few lives.

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