

Lesson 3: Non-Linear vs Linear Response

Host: Thanks for joining us for Lesson 3 in our school safety and security series on the Threat Within. I'm here with Vaughn Baker from Strategos. In our last session we left off in Lesson 2 talking about the importance of training your teachers, your staff, and your administration when it comes to responding and making decisions in the midst of a crisis. So now let's talk about the 3 Out Assessment Model of Lock-Out, Take Out, Get Out and how it's used when a threat presents itself.

Let's say we hear shots fired.

Vaughn Baker: What we're talking about in this particular model is your ability to make a decision. Pick one of those three outs; lock out, get out, take out, based on two things. One, your location in relation to the threat, and two, the environment that you find yourself in at the time that you accept the crisis. That's what's going to determine which out you're going to use.

In other words, my out may not necessarily be your out. In the same room, in a room like this, if the attacker comes in this door right here, we have already talked about it, we're going to have to use take out because the threat's on top of us. But, if he comes in this door and there's people at the back of the room, and there's an exit door back there, then those people are going to use get out. Well, how did they make that decision based on their location in relation to that particular threat.

Host: Is the non-linear model of Lock Out, Take Out, Get Out different than Run, Hide, Fight?

Vaughn Baker: Well, run, hide, fight is a linear model. It was designed as a linear model. Some people teach it as a non-linear model, but I just want to let you know how it was designed initially is run first. Run away from the shots. Second is hide, and third is fight. Well, that run and hide, we understand that words have meaning, and those meanings create a mindset. Run and hide creates a victim mindset. We don't want to do that in crisis. We don't want people acting like victims because they'll get down in the fetal position and not do anything productive and not participate in their own outcome.

As far as this linear approach, couple of examples come to mind. November 2016. Ohio State University. They had a run, hide, fight linear model in place. An attacker with a vehicle drove on campus and began to run over people on sidewalks and in the street. When he finally wrecked, he got out and started stabbing people. Well, they put out their run, hide, fight notification, and what happened because that was a linear model, people ran out of buildings that were very secure, towards the outside of the building and actually put themselves in danger.

Sometimes they tell them to run away from the gunshots. When you hear the shots, well, first of all, that doesn't show an understanding of real world. When shots are going off inside of a building, you cannot determine where those shots are coming from. Even trained officers, that sound is bouncing off all of the walls, so it's hard to determine. We actually

tested that with hundreds and hundreds of teachers. Where we told them they had a run, hide, fight model in place, and we said, “When you hear the shots, run away from the shots.”

And guess what we found when we tested that? About half of them ran towards the shots because they thought the direction they were running was away from the shots because again, it’s very difficult to determine where the shots are coming from.

Host: And the 3 out Assessment of Lock Out, Get Out, Take Out — it’s something that teachers and high school students can do, right?

Vaughn Baker: Absolutely. You need to be told that a non-linear approach, and you’re going to have to make that decision yourself. We’re going to personally empower them to make that decision. The reason that’s so critical is — what can you do prior to the crisis to prepare for that type of thinking? That non-linear thinking? We call that doing a personal three out assessment, no matter where you’re at. No matter where you find yourself throughout the day, the fast food restaurant, your place of worship, school, your place of business. Asking yourself three questions no matter where you’re at that day or whatever room you’re in that day, is how could I lock out this area? How could I get out of this area? And the last is what do I have available on me, around me that I can fight back or take out in this area?

Those three out questions or that three out assessment only takes about 30 seconds, so it’s just a new way of thinking and no matter where you’re out, you can go through that quick 30 second process. That you’re prepared for that particular environment.

Host: Thanks Vaughn for covering the 3 Out Assessment Model. In Lesson 4, we’re going to be talking about the Psychology of an Attacker. In an previous lesson, Vaughn mentioned that looking at a crisis from the perspective of an attacker is one of the elements used to develop crisis training.

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