

Gilford Police Department

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GILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMITTED TO KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Preparedness is essential in keeping children and the community safe during critical incidents.

The Gilford Police Department (GPD) continues its diligence and commitment to the safety of the community by recently hosting and participating in active shooter training at Gilford High School in order to better prepare themselves for critical incidents. Critical incidents within schools and smaller communities are an all too common occurrence in today's society. Having GPD men and women as well trained and prepared for the unthinkable is of the utmost importance. Gilford Police Lieutenant Kris Kelley commented, "By continuing our progressive police approach to keep the community and children safe, we are doing everything we can to stay at the forefront of training and preparedness. We are very lucky to have the community support we do, which allows us to train and have the resources to be the best we can in our profession." Gilford is fortunate to have two assigned School Resource Officers in the schools, which, statistically-wise, drastically reduces the likelihood of school violence and critical incidents. Although there is not one perfect solution to the increase in violence in both our schools and society, continued support from the community to be as prepared as possible increases the likelihood of quick and peaceful resolutions of critical incidents within the town.

Active Shooter training includes both hostage and shooter scenarios during which officers breach buildings and navigate through hallways and classrooms in order to isolate shooters and rescue potential victims. Scenarios utilize fire alarms, intercom systems, and simulated firearms so as to create dynamic real-life experiences for participants. Such trainings are developed using historic events and the latest tactics and techniques available for active shooter emergency responses. In conjunction with SAU 73 personnel, Gilford Fire-Rescue, and members of the Belknap Regional Special Operations Group, the training was conducted in a controlled environment. Gilford Chief of Police Anthony Bean Burpee emphasized the importance of such training so that first responders can be better prepared to isolate, distract and neutralize active shooters while working hand-in-hand with their police Dispatch counterparts.

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