

Critical Incident Review: Active Shooter at Robb Elementary School—Introduction and Overview of Videos

Rob Chapman

00:00:03

Hello. On behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS Office, we want to thank you for your interest in the Critical Incident Review of the active shooter response at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. My name is Rob Chapman, and I'm joined by my DOJ COPS Office colleague, Nazmia Comrie. This video series is meant to introduce and provide a high-level overview of the critical areas that we reviewed and assessed and features both our DOJ COPS Office and subject matter expert team members. Again, thank you for your interest in this additional resource that is meant to supplement the full [Critical Incident Review report](#) and [other supporting materials](#).

Nazmia Comrie

00:00:40

Thank you, Rob, and thank you to those that are watching us today.

Before we get started, just want to reference that we have dedicated our work to those who lost their lives on May 24th, 2022, as well as the surviving victims, family members, and all others deeply and forever affected by this tragedy.

To give an overview of the background of the Critical Incident Review, as well as a methodology and the report's scope and structure, Rob and myself will give an overview so that you understand what went into the work as well as—as you watch the future videos—you understand the background behind that.

We began our Critical Incident Review upon request by the former Uvalde leadership. We then, at the Department of Justice, agreed to conduct the Critical Incident Review, and the Attorney General of the United States asked the COPS Office, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, to lead this effort with the support of 10 subject matter experts that have an expertise in various areas that impact this report from leadership, incident command, tactics, communications, trauma, school safety. Together with the COPS Office, we had three goals for the Critical Incident Review. The first was to provide an authoritative accounting of the law enforcement response. The second was to identify lessons learned for the field. And the third, and most importantly, was to help honor the victims and the survivors.

Through that work, we collected over 14,000 pieces of data and documentation. We reviewed things like videos, audio, images, policies, training documents, transcripts to understand and to piece together the information needed to pull together this accurate picture of the incident. We went out to Uvalde nine times over 54 days to meet with those who were there that day, those that were directly impacted, and those that had a hand in the development of policies, those that provided training to really understand—and, once again—that we had the most accurate picture possible. We conducted directly

over 260 interviews with those that were first responders, those that were directly impacted, and various other stakeholders with the goal that with all of our interviews, that we were being trauma-informed, victim-centered, and culturally responsive in our approach to ensure that we were not re-victimizing anyone. And then finally, we went across the country to understand what is being trained on active shooter and what are those generally accepted practices and standards so that we could pull all of this together to develop the most comprehensive report to date on the incident that occurred at Robb Elementary School.

Rob Chapman

00:03:36

Thank you, Nazmia. The Critical Incident Review report is organized in the following areas of focus:

- First, we provide a comprehensive incident timeline reconstruction that provides an authoritative account of the pertinent facts leading up to, during, and immediately following the tragic mass shooting.
- We look at the tactics employed and the equipment contemplated, sought, and deployed over the course of the incident.
- We examine the issues related to leadership, incident command, and coordination across law enforcement agencies and other multidisciplinary stakeholders.
- We examine
 - › the post-incident response and investigation, including the management of the crime scene, evidence collection, and interagency coordination in those efforts;
 - › the public communications during and following the shooting at Robb Elementary;
 - › trauma and support services for those affected by the shooting—which includes survivors, victims, responders, and others;
 - › the school safety and security apparatus in place on May 24th, 2022;
 - › and finally, pre-incident planning and preparation, including the policies and procedures, training, mutual aid agreements, and other formal coordination efforts in Uvalde prior to May 24th, 2022, and specifically how those impacted the response.

Each chapter within the report ends with a series of observations and recommendations. Observations relate to those conclusions that are specific to the active shooter response at Robb Elementary as well as conclusions related to relevant planning, preparation, and post-incident response activities. The recommendations are framed more broadly and are intended to inform how law enforcement and other key stakeholders nationally review and assess their own planning and preparation efforts to improve future responses to active shooter incidents. The report includes a total of 147 observations and 273 associated recommendations. These are written in a very practical manner and are written in such a way as to be actionable by law enforcement and other stakeholders. The following videos in this series follow the organization of the report with one video per chapter. Each video provides a high-level overview of each chapter.

We encourage you to visit the COPS Office website dedicated to this work and dedicated to those impacted by this tragedy. You can reach it at www.cops.usdoj.gov/uvalde. On that page, you will find the full report in both English and Spanish; it includes an executive summary, remembrance profiles, and many additional resources to help those responsible for planning and responding to critical incidents better prepare and respond. Again, we thank you for your interest in this Critical Incident Review, and we hope and believe that you'll find it helpful in your work.