



Closings

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Janesville Teachers Train For Mass Casualty Situation



Alexis McAdams



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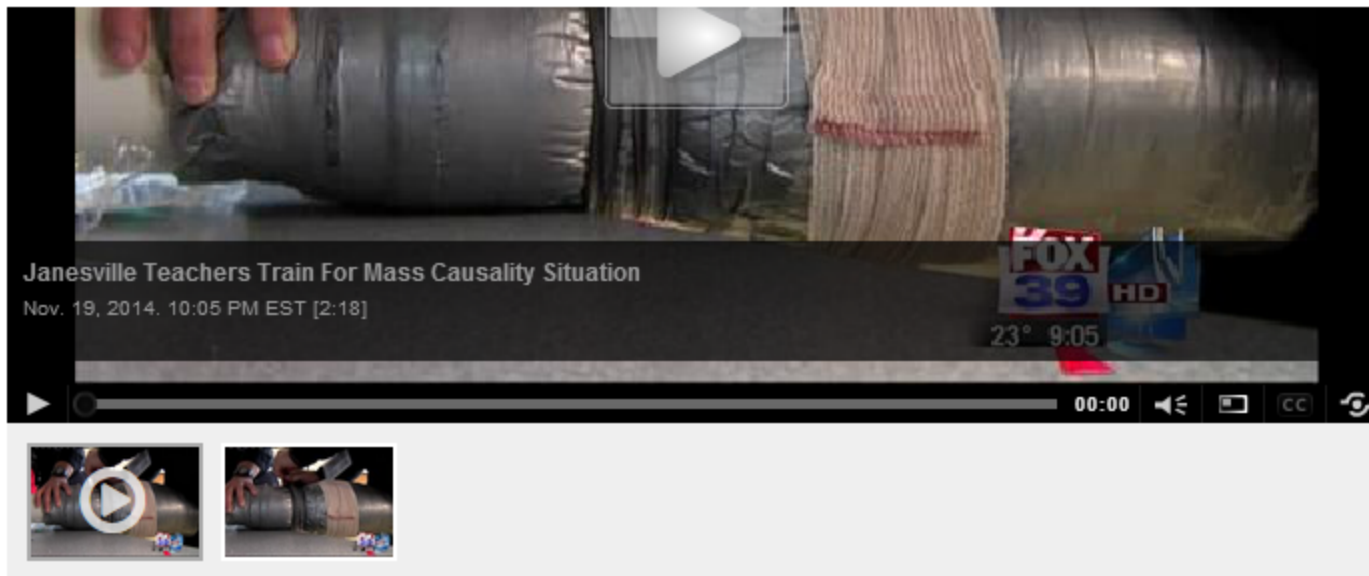
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JANESVILLE - Three hundred teachers in the Janesville School District are learning how to save lives in the classroom, in preparation for the unimaginable: if a school shooting or other emergency situation were to happen. The District teamed up with Janesville Police and Fire departments and Mercy Health System to train teachers to make every second count, for instance, when stopping the bleeding from a gunshot wound. "Unfortunately, we have increasing amounts of school violence [nationwide]. What we are finding is that it takes time for the first responders to get in and stabilize the situation, and make it safe enough to bring in appropriate resource," says Jay Macneal EMS Director at Mercy Health System.

The nation has seen 160 active shooter incidents in the past 14 years. Those shootings have resulted in more than 1,000 casualties. "We recognized that we had a deficiency [in our preparedness for such a situation], and that was we are not putting tools in the school that help save lives when these incidents happen," says Sgt. Mike Blaser of the Janesville Police Department.

The training empowers school staff to act and potentially save a life. Classrooms are equipped with a safety kit, which costs less than \$12 and comes with a roll of gauze, an ACE bandage, and also a tourniquet. The kit includes instructions on how to stretch, wrap and tuck around the wound.

Janesville's casualty care in the class room is the first of its kind in the Stateline area. Staffers are preparing for a crime they hope never happens, and maybe even helping to prevent one from happening in their district. "We are not going to sit back and wait for things to happen. We are going to be prepared prior to the event," says Sgt. Blaser.