

Profile of Recent Mall Shootings



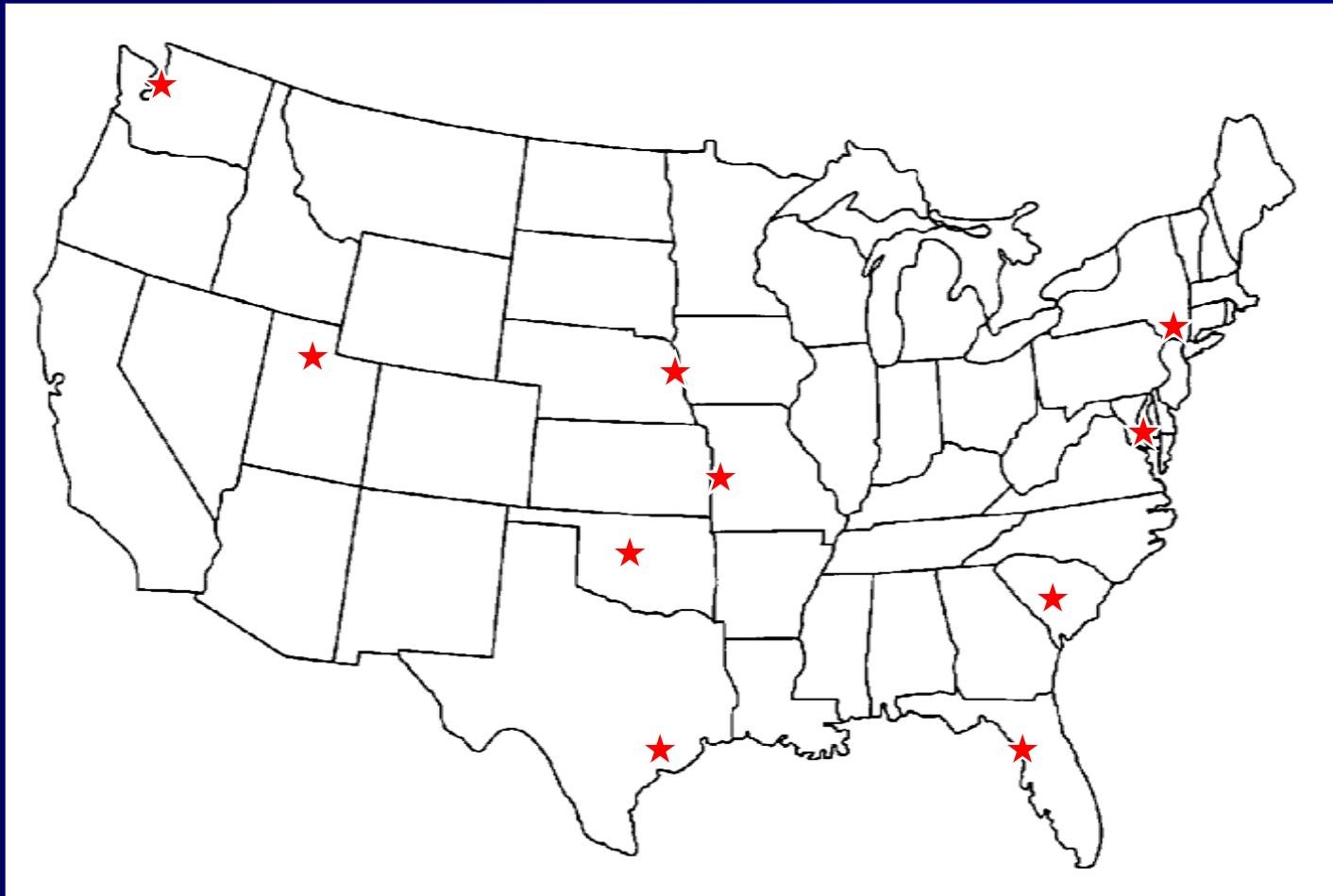
Prepared by Ryan Kapaun, Eden Prairie Police Department Law Enforcement Analyst
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rkapaun@edenprairie.org

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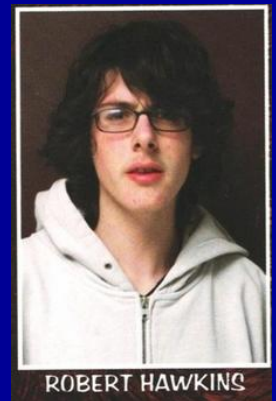
Map of Mall Shootings

2004 - 2007



Shootings at U.S. Malls

- Dec. 5, 2007: A man shot 11 people, 8 fatally, before killing himself at Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb.
- Nov. 27, 2007: A man fatally shot his girlfriend and then himself while she opened up a lingerie shop at Greenspoint Mall in Houston.
- June 13, 2007: A man shot and injured his estranged wife and shot her father to death before driving away from the scene at the Columbiana Centre, a mall in Columbia, S.C. Police later caught and arrested the man.
- April 29, 2007: Police fatally shot a gunman after he shot two people to death at the Ward Parkway Center Mall in Kansas City, Mo.
- Feb. 12, 2007: Ten people were shot, six of them fatally, at Trolley Square mall in Salt Lake City. Police shot and killed the 18-year-old gunman.



Omaha Mall Shooter

Shootings at U.S. Malls (continued)

- Nov. 18, 2006: A man shot at an off-duty Secret Service agent at the Westfield Annapolis Mall, after the Secret Service agent tried to break up a fight. The agent and another bystander was injured.
- May 27, 2006: A gunman opened fire at the Crossroads Mall in Oklahoma City, injuring a teenager before a sheriff's deputy shot and killed him.
- Nov. 2005: A gunman wounded seven people during a rampage at Tacoma Mall in Tacoma, Washington. After being sentenced to 163 years in prison, he filed notice of his intention to appeal conviction.
- Feb. 13, 2006: A gunman fired shots as he walked through the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston, N.Y., wounding two people.
- Nov. 18, 2004: A gunman shot two people to death, wounded a third and then shot himself at the Gateway Shopping Center in St. Petersburg, Fla.



Robert Bonelli Jr., 25,
fired 50 rounds at
Hudson Valley Mall

Profile of Shooter

- In all 10 mall shootings, the suspect was male.
- Three of the ten shootings were the result of a domestic dispute that carried over to the mall.
- The age range of shooters (not related to a domestic) were 15 – 25, with one shooter who was 51 years old.
- Three of the ten suspects committed suicide before police were able to respond.
- Handguns were the weapon of choice, though the suspects who targeted more than 3 victims typically had a shotgun, rifle or AK-47, as well as a handgun.



David W. Logsdon, 51,
Shooter at
Kansas City Mall

Police and Security Response

- Police engaged with the shooter in six of the ten shootings. In the other four shootings, the suspect either killed himself or fled.
- In three of the six shootings where police engaged with the shooter, the officer was off-duty and happened to be nearby.
- Five of the ten shootings occurred in an open area in the middle of the mall, while three shootings occurred within a store in the mall.
- Two shootings occurred in the parking lot of the mall.
- There was no direct correlation between where in the mall the shooting occurred and the number of victims.
- Witnesses reported at least 20 rounds fired during the four incidents where there were more than six victims.
- Witnesses generally reported less than five rounds fired when there were less than four victims.



Police respond to Tacoma Mall Shooting

5 Stages of the Active Shooter

1. Fantasy Stage
2. Planning Stage
3. Preparation Stage
4. Approach Stage
5. Implementation Stage

Source: PoliceOne.com

Assessment

- In the case of the Omaha mall shooting, security officers flagged Hawkins as suspicious when he entered the mall. He left soon after he entered, then returned less than six minutes later with something apparently hidden in a balled-up sweatshirt.
- Most active shooters provide some sort of indicator that something big was about to happen (i.e. left a note, postings on a Web site, told someone, dry-runs, surveillance).
- Obviously, the best time to stop an active shooter is during the one of the first three stages. Once the shooter reaches the implementation stage, it is too late. While off-duty officers were able to engage with suspects during three incidents, the entire event is usually over by the time security or on-duty police officers can respond.



Hawkins walking into the Westroads Mall in Omaha

Suggestions for the Public

Being aware of your surroundings and the possibility of danger is your best defense. Be alert, and stay aware (but don't become paranoid).

If you are in a shopping mall or similar area and hear gunfire the following tips can aid in your survival:

- Always know where the TWO nearest exits are in any building you visit.
- If you hear gunfire or see an active shooter – seek cover immediately.
- Move to the nearest exit that takes you away from the sound of gunfire and away from the active shooter. – Be aware of the risk from a panicked crowd; all trying to escape through a single exit. – Don't forget about using fire exits, delivery areas, and “employee only” exits to escape an active shooter.
- If you can't get out of the building your next best option is to lock yourself in a room separate from the active shooter and wait for law enforcement.
- If you are armed do NOT engage the active shooter unless your life is in immediate danger. (One of the victims in the Tacoma Mall shooting unsuccessfully attempted to engage the active shooter – and was shot for his attempt.)

Source: I Corps & Fort Lewis - Force Protection Division

Minnesota Joint Analysis Center (MNJAC)

MNJAC

111 Washington Ave. S.
Suite 820

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Office: 612-373-2840

Fax: 612-373-2870

E-mail: info@icefishx.org

Web site: www.icefishx.org