



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS TRAINED FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann wants residents to know that all officers in the county are ready should an active shooter incident occur in one of our communities. All officers and law enforcement agencies in the county have been trained in Multi-Assault, Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities, or MACTAC, a program that is used throughout the country.

“After the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012, we found that, while law enforcement, schools and mental health personnel had talked about what they would do in such instances, they hadn’t talked with each other,” Ehlmann says. “So, we brought them together, had a great dialog, and the Sheriff’s Department began coordinating MACTAC training for all law enforcement agencies in the county.”

St. Charles County Police Chief Kurt Frisz says selected individuals from every agency in St. Charles County went through instructor training first and then those 25 began training every officer – more than 650 – in the county. While the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team often assists in these types of incidents, it was found that in the case of an active shooter, SWAT Teams are often too late to be effective. Training all officers ensures that any first responding officer knows how to react to the situation.

“MACTAC is a rigorous training,” Chief Frisz says. “We place trainees in a variety of scenarios and make it as real as possible to make certain we can stop an active shooter in any situation. For officers, it’s a reality of our job and why we serve to protect the public, but for civilians, it’s something they need to be prepared for and to think about. We want to equip them with as many tools as we can to help save their lives and the lives of those around them and in their care.”

Officers receive 10 hours of intense training with MACTAC, keeping in mind that incidents are spontaneous and that suspects are unpredictable and heavily armed. They also are reminded that incidents occur in large environments where there are numerous people who have no way of defending themselves. The training is recurring with full training sessions and refreshers available throughout the year.

“Before MACTAC training, police were not sufficiently trained to handle these situations,” says St. Charles County Police Chief Kurt Frisz. “Now they are. We’re all on the same page.”

Chief Frisz says it is also important to make certain citizens receive active shooter training. His staff has focused on teachers and other school employees, as well as employees at non-profit organizations. They receive four hours of 4E School Training: Educate, Escape, Evade and Engage – or Run, Hide, Fight. County employees also were offered the training.

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“Unfortunately, there are more and more instances of active shooters,” County Executive Ehlmann says, “and people are aware this could happen anytime, anywhere. Being ready is the best way to keep safe, and I want to reassure the community that our officers are both trained and prepared.”

For additional information, [watch a presentation about MACTAC training](#) presented to the St. Charles County Council at its regular meeting May 31, 2022.

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Media Contact: Mary Enger, Communications Director, 636-949-1856, or 636-443-1008, menger@sccmo.org

About St. Charles County:

St. Charles County, Missouri, founded in 1812, is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri. With a population of 405,262, is it the state’s third largest county. It is home to 21 scenic county parks of which four are in reserve, encompassing 4,197 acres.

With one of the largest economies in the state, St. Charles County is home to multinational companies including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government has more than 1,170 employees in more than 30 departments and offices who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit sccmo.org.