



# Somerset Police Department

## Public Information Office

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### **SPD Taking Preventive Measures in Homeland Security**

The Somerset Police Department is taking a four-phase approach to better protecting the city.

The four phases include active shooter response, police negotiations, emergency mobilization plan, and infrastructure protection.

#### Active Shooter Response

School shootings like Columbine and Virginia Tech has changed the role of first responding police officers. In years past, patrol officers maintained perimeter security until a SWAT team arrived. Now, officers are trained to form a team, enter and neutralize the threat.

SPD officers are being trained in the latest techniques in active shooter response. Each officer will be receiving in-house training specific to protecting schools, factories, and other buildings where a mass shooting incident might take place.

#### Police Negotiations

Five officers recently completed specialized training in Florida and were qualified as police negotiators through a week-long training class hosted by the IPTM.

Negotiators are trained to control a hostage taker or barricaded subject and guide a situation to a successful conclusion.

Three officers also have completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT officers received training from a partnership between law enforcement and the mental health community aimed at providing an intelligent, understandable, and safe approach to mental crisis events.

#### Emergency Mobilization Plan

Recently, Pulaski 911 implemented the OneCall Now emergency notification system for county-wide disaster preparedness. Now, the Somerset Police Department will use the same technology in its emergency mobilization plan.

SPD employees are subject to off-duty activation to assist with emergencies such as natural disasters and crisis events.

Even with cell phones, it takes about 45 minutes to notify all sworn and civilian employees of the police department. The OneCall Now system can contact SPD's 45 employees almost instantly.

### Infrastructure Protection

The police department has taken steps to prepare for attacks to the city's water supply and electric stations.

During the early spring, aerial photos were taken of possible targets of terrorism, including educational facilities. The aerial photos offer a better perspective to an incident commander when a crisis unfolds.

SPD officers have been busy collecting floor plans of schools and factories, as well.

The four-phase approach to securing the city was developed with terrorism, natural disaster, and non-terrorism criminal activity in mind.