



MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff



News Release

For Immediate Release

August 15, 2018

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Active shooter exercise conducted at New Salem High School

New Salem, N.D. – Today, the Morton County Sheriff's Office led an active shooter drill at New Salem High School in New Salem, ND. The exercise is part of an overall effort by the sheriff's office and school districts within Morton County to create safe schools and develop an effective crisis response.

The exercise provided critical training for emergency personnel on how to respond to an active shooter situation utilizing varying tactics and approaches. Officers utilized non-lethal equipment to provide a realistic and dynamic environment. To assist with the training, staff and faculty from the New Salem School District and telecommunicators from the ND Division of State Radio served as actors/actresses for the drill. This opportunity gave the school employees a first-hand point of view on how local law enforcement responds to active shooter situations, and how operations are coordinated safely with support from firefighters and EMTs.

"Although the likelihood of experiencing an armed intruder is extremely low, we feel it is important to include training for the school's overall emergency planning and our response," said Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier. "We have had to adapt to an ever-changing environment that unfortunately includes the need to prepare for the potential of violent acts such as active assailants."

The Morton County Sheriff's Office works closely with schools within the county to provide guidance in emergency planning, response and prevention of active shooter incidents. Our office is currently providing instruction in ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) to local schools and government offices. The training provides optional tactics to the traditional "lockdown only" approach.

Today's exercise also included participation from the New Salem Fire Department, New Salem Ambulance, Metro Area Ambulance, Morton County Emergency Management, and ND Highway Patrol.

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