



Mass Violence & Domestic Terrorism

What makes it different?

Response



	Neighborhood Shooting	Multivehicle Accident	School Shooting
Number of Responders	1 st Res - On-duty Adv – on call	1 Res -- On-duty plus mutual aid Adv – not included	All hands on deck
Who is in Charge	First-on-scene DA's Adv/Victim Witness	First on-scene – follow ICS	Unified Command
Secondary Attack	Not likely	No	Highly possible
Distress Level	Typical, although more if child involve or when cumulative stress kicks in	Typical, higher as number involved increases	Horror vs. tactical training
Responder Self-Criticism	Typical	Minimal	High
Length of response	Hours	Hours	Days to months
Familiarity of Assignment	Typical	Typical	Atypical and overwhelming

Perpetrator/s



	Neighborhood Shooting	Multivehicle Accident	School Shooting
Precipitating Motivations	Historical conflict or impulsive dispute	None	Retribution, alienation, anger
Number of Perps	Single, perhaps accomplice	N/A	Often single, possibly multiple
Affiliation	Can be gang related	N/A	Possibly influenced by internet extremism
Planning	Unlikely or minimal	None	Considerable
Weapons	Varies	None	Guns, explosives, support tools
Tactical Equipment	Rarely used	N/A	Usually present

Victims



	Neighborhood Shooting	Multivehicle Accident	School Shooting
Number of People Impacted	Limited generally to incident	Usually minimal	Usually significant
Vulnerability of Victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical community conflict may make victims less vulnerable Historical interpersonal conflict may make victims more vulnerable 	N/A	Victims often unable to defend themselves
Innocence of Victims	Victims may be suspected or culpable for preceding incidents, innocent bystanders	Yes	Victim are innocent, though bullying of the perp may be a contributing factor
Number of Deaths	Usually < 5	Minimal, except in unique incidents	Loss of life can be extensive. LOD death increases stress
Brutality of Incident	Violence is limited to avoid detection	Can be disturbing	Often attacker engages in cruelty
Condition of Remains	Usually immediately removed from scene	Can be disturbing	Remains can be gruesome and stay on scene for period of time
Condition of Injured	Varies	Can be disturbing	Catastrophic nature and volume of injuries

External



	Neighborhood Shooting	Multivehicle Accident	School Shooting
Media Presence	Often not present	Superficial	Immediate and unrelenting
Social Media	Minimal coverage	Automatic	Huge, often international, presence
Sensationalism	Rarely a factor	Rarely	Media can seize upon aspects causing burdens to responders
Immediate and ongoing scrutiny of responder actions	Scrutiny based on certain factors	Not usually a factor	Spotlight placed on responders
Political Involvement	Rarely an impactful factor	Only in very unique circumstances	Politicians seek to associate themselves with the incident

Summary:

What is different about Mass Violence

- ▶ Emotional/psychological impacts of those involved can persist for years
- ▶ Media scrutiny and political involvement is extensive and invasive
- ▶ Loss of life, brutality and carnage is significant
- ▶ Victims are usually innocent with no criminal involvement
- ▶ Resources required often exceed those available
- ▶ Attacker is heavily armed often via access to the internet and influenced by online extremist community/ideologies

