

## Behavioral Threat Assessment

### TEAM TRAINING EXERCISE

#### What is Behavioral Threat Assessment?

Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) is a fact-based, systematic process designed to identify, inquire, assess, and manage potentially dangerous or violent situations. BTA is crafted to gather a holistic picture of an individual that may be on a pathway to violence and to design a plan to mitigate harm and intervene effectively.

#### What Behavioral Threat Assessment is Not.

- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT a simple checklist of warning signs and red flags.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT criminally profiling individuals or conducting psychoanalysis.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used to label students as trouble makers.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used as a means to remove students from school systems.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used to find the next school shooter.

#### Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise activity is to prepare Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) team members to; effectively perform their individual role and responsibilities, collaborate as a member of the team, and consider information that culminates in a decision.

#### RESOURCES



Visit [schoolsafety.maryland.gov](https://schoolsafety.maryland.gov), go to “Resources”, then “Training & Exercise”.



#### CONTACT INFO



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member &amp; Role: \_\_\_\_\_

### Scenario

#### **BLOWN AWAY**

While the school security employees were making rounds and checking bathrooms, a handwritten note was found in the female bathroom stating: "DON'T COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW... OR BOOM!!" School administrators and security personnel reviewed security camera footage of students entering and exiting the bathroom. Beth, a 12-year-old student, was seen leaning against the wall writing the note, and then placing the note on the floor. Throughout the day, students had told their teachers Beth had made several comments that she planned on killing everyone and that she hated her life.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- Third foster family in 18 months
- Charged with arson at the age of 9
- Multiple referrals for classroom disruption
- Frequently makes references to the Anarchist Cookbook



**Start Here**

IDEATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
Is there a real or perceived grievance? If so, identify the grievance.	
Is there a history or pattern with violence?	
Does a risk of danger exist?	
Is the individual expressing thoughts or fantasies considering violence to address their grievance?	

**\*NOTE:** Many people have occasional or fleeting thoughts of violence but do not act, we should still be alert of the possibility and that the individual may be struggling with a grievance of some sort.

**Decision:**

PLANNING	Notes, information, and general considerations
Are there details revealed; i.e. who, what, when?	
Expressions referenced in timing, location, targets, means, etc.?	
Research and references being relayed on how?	
Has the individual begun obtaining information on materials and weapons?	

**\*NOTE:** Research and references alone do not constitute that an individual is planning an attack.

**Decision:**



PREPARATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
Are steps being taken to execute the acts of violence?	
Has the individual made attempts to obtain materials, clothing, tools to fulfill their plans?	
Has the individual attempted dry runs or to alter plans to overcome potential obstacles or challenges that would prevent them from carrying out their plan?	
Have boundaries or restricted areas been tested?	

**\*NOTE: This stage is beyond just acquiring weapons, this stage involves attempts to prepare for the violent act.**

**Decision:**

IMPLEMENTATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
What clues, facts, indicators are present that the threat is imminent?	
What indicators are present that the individual has moved from Ideation to Implementation?	
What resources and partners are readily available?	
What resources are available to stop the act of violence?	

**\*NOTE: This step may be expedited by a sense of desperation, or influences of others encouraging escalation through social media or direct communication.**

<b>Final Conclusion</b>	<b>Case Manager</b>
	30 day review date: _____

