

# Shooter simulation hits Tech

**By Laura Bond**

[laura@rustonleader.com](mailto:laura@rustonleader.com)

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Police and emergency personnel swarmed Caruthers Hall on Louisiana Tech campus Thursday as victims were pulled from the building and a shooter was gunned down during a Mock Disaster Drill.

The crisis simulation set up by the Ruston Fire Department served as a multi-agency training to prepare first-responders for real emergencies.

"The shooter was on the bottom floor of Caruthers, and we were supposed to take care of him without injuring any civilians," said Lincoln Parish Sheriff's deputy Dennis Penuell, who is on the SWAT team.

With two universities in the parish, Ruston Police Chief Steve Rogers said it is important responders are well-trained for a potential shooter scenario.

"We hope and pray it never happens, but you have to be prepared for it," he said.

The first order of business in a shooter situation is to eliminate the threat, Rogers said, whether it be by capturing or shooting. Then once the shooter is detained or barricaded in a room away from others in the building, emergency personnel can head in to care for the victims.

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# Drill performance to be critiqued

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In this instance, approximately 10 Tech students who played the injured were taken outside to a triage unit, where they were divided up onto different color-coated mats according to the severity of their injuries.

"The deceased victims go to the black mat, the walking wounded on the green, and those in the red are in need of immediate care," LPSO deputy Eldred Hardison said. "In an actual emergency, these mats would be used."

The shooter drill was run twice Thursday, with the shooter taking different positions.

"This is so (the respond-

ers) won't see the same thing they just saw," RFD Public Information Officer Eric Brazzel said. "This gives us a variety of scenarios."

But during real disaster, a few details would be changed.

"The problem you run into in a drill is trying to make it realistic," Rogers said. "But if this situation was really going on, all the traffic around would have been shut down, and you wouldn't see anybody in this area."

Rogers said communication with differing radio frequencies is often a big problem when various agencies work together, but this issue was limited in Thursday's drill because the scenario took place inside and the agencies have past experi-

ence working together.

"Everybody knows each other and has worked around one another for about 20 years," he said. "I think the drill went pretty well."

The responders planned to spend Thursday afternoon critiquing the drill.

Participating agencies included Ruston Fire/EMS Department, Ruston Police Department, Tech Police Department, Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office, Lincoln Parish Emergency Management, Northern Louisiana Medical Center, A.M.R. EMS, Jackson Parish EMS, Pafford EMS, Lincoln Parish Fire Department, Choudrant Fire Department and Grambling Fire Department.