

8A | MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 | EVANSVILLE COURIER & PRESS

## Training

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Vanderburgh County Sheriff Dave Wedding, who was a young deputy when the Crescent Plastics incident occurred, has conducted training for businesses, churches and others and said he's available to do more.

He said the instruction includes things such as what doors to keep unlocked and locked and how someone with potential for violence might be recognized.

"Gun violence is not new to the United States," Wedding said. "It always has and will always continue to be a problem. We need tougher laws for illegal possession of weapons and certainly tough laws for people who use guns in commission of crimes."

The Evansville Police Department also makes officers available for training about active shooter situations, said Sgt. Nick Winsett, a department spokesman.

Henderson County Sheriff Ed Brady said he's also conducted trainings from time to time on how to plan for a shoot-



People stand outside a FedEx facility near Indianapolis International Airport after a shooting with multiple victims was reported late Thursday night.

MYKAL MCELLOWNEY/INDYSTAR

ing scenario, and churches often are those interested.

He said he's been asked by churches, for instance, if a congregation member should be armed, and where that person should be seated in the event of an active shooter.

An armed church member "needs training on when not to shoot as well as when to shoot," Brady said. "There are some situations where it could get worse by opening fire. The same thing

with a business."

Any law enforcement agency, said Brady, "would be happy to go into a (business or church) and talk about it before the fact."

Area businesses said active shooter preparedness is discussed at high levels and always taken very seriously.

"Health and safety of our employees is our top priority," said a statement by Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana Corporate Communications Director

Stacy Carr. "TMMI leadership and plant security work in partnership with local emergency personnel and law enforcement to establish protocols and processes to ensure the safety and security of our employees."

"Everyone at Accuride is saddened by the most recent mass shooting, this time in Indianapolis," said Grant Hutton, marketing director of the company which has a factory in Henderson and corporate offices in Evansville. "Because of the increase of deadly workplace violence over the last decade, Accuride has implemented threat awareness training covering workplace violence and active shooter situations. More recently, we invited the Evansville Police Department to conduct active shooter training at our corporate headquarters here."

CenterPoint Energy Director of Communications Natalie Hedde said in a statement: "CenterPoint Energy extends its deepest condolences to all impacted by the fatal and tragic shooting which took place in Indianapolis. I can share that all of our employees complete required active shooter training each year as the safety and security of our employees is of highest importance and a core value to our organization."

## Mothers

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"I wanted to show solidarity in our community, because we're tired," Dycus said. "Enough is enough. And I wanted families who have been impacted by gun violence to know their community is here to support them."

They held a vigil Saturday afternoon at the Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, so those affected by Thursday night's shooting would know they weren't alone.

"It hurts us all," said Wooden, who lost a son and daughter to gun violence, "because a lot of us have been there."

It was the outlet that Savana DeLao and Michelle Parks were looking for.

Any other day, they would have been at the facility when the shooting occurred. Parks would have been in the parking lot of the FedEx Ground facility at 8951 Mirabel Road on her dinner break. Last Thursday, though, Parks didn't work her shift. Her kids needed



Supporters gather during a vigil at Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis on Saturday. Supporters came out for the vigil to show support for the victims of Thursday's mass shooting.

SAM GREENE/THE ENQUIRER

her and something, she said, didn't feel right. DeLao would have been handing out paychecks to her colleagues. She

doesn't normally work Thursdays, though. She'd gone in last Thursday but left early, around 5:30 p.m.

"I was laughing, like 'you guys have a good day. I'll see you next week,'" she remembered.

So a friend of hers was distributing paychecks to the facility's employees when a man that police have said was a former employee opened fire and killed eight people. Some of the victims had been waiting in line for their checks.

Karli Smith, 19, was waiting in line for her first check said Parks, who helped train her days earlier.

"Her work ethic was awesome," Parks said.

DeLao and Parks were among 50 or so who attended the vigil. They said that the employees of the facility are like family. Parks remembered the smile in 74-year-old John Weisert's eyes, behind his mask. And they recalled the positive energy that radiated off Samaria Blackwell.

"She'd have a hundred-pound package and toss it like it was nothing," Parks said, laughing at the memory.

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# 2021-04-19 Active Shooter PART 2



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