



PRESS RELEASE



10th Judicial District Court and Probation Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

For Immediate Release

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Active Shooter Drill Tests Staff, Deputies Response at Dennis Maes Judicial Building

Pueblo, CO: The staff of the 10th Judicial District Court and Probation and Pueblo County Sheriff's Deputies tested their response today to an active shooter in the Dennis Maes Judicial Building.

District Court and Probation employees, including judges and magistrates, were dealt with a simulated active shooter scenario involving two shooters inside the judicial building. Employees were evaluated on how they responded to the situation. Likewise, Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies who regularly work in the building, were assessed on their response to the actions.

A second phase of the exercise involved a slow-motion, walk-through of the scenario where law enforcement and judicial staff were critiqued on the decisions that were made and to provide immediate feedback on the actions.

An after-action report will be written and provided to the judicial and probation staff and sheriff's office staff outlining the strengths and needed areas of improvement.

Planning for the drill began several months ago after the 10th Judicial Courts and Probation leadership wanted to test their employee's response to an active shooter situation. Employees were recently briefed and had the opportunity to view an educational video on how to best handle an active shooter situation in the workplace or the public.

"The safety of our staff and the public we serve at the 10th Judicial District is a critical component of the Judicial Department's overall mission," said 10th Judicial Chief Judge Gregory Styduhar. "The genesis of this event was through multiple community partners coming together; notably our consistent partner in safety at the courthouse, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, to ensure whole community preparedness."

"The event was truly a success, as we all left keener to, and comfortable with, potential dangers we might face at the courthouse," said Styduhar.

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“The safety of employees and the public in the Dennis Maes Judicial Building is paramount,” said Don Castro, Chief Probation Officer for the 10th Judicial District. “Having drills helps us to evaluate procedures, gives participants an experience and perspective, and ultimately prepares us in the event there is ever a real emergency.

“Although today’s drill was led by the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office, I would also like to thank 10th Judicial District Chief Judge, Greg Styduhar, Court Executive, Laura Snyder, the Fire Department, and AMR. I believe today’s drill was a success,” added Castro.

“While we hope nothing like this will ever happen, we know it’s always a possibility. So, having drills like this allows the deputies to respond to a realistic situation in a safe, learning environment,” said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. “This exercise also allowed them to understand the magnitude of a situation such as this.”

“This exercise also was a great opportunity for our deputies to train with the judicial building staff, to build a rapport and level of trust so that if a real-world situation does occur, we’re hopeful everyone feels comfortable working together.”

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