

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OF SCHOOLS:
THE CASE OF STAVANGER, NORWAY**

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ABSTRACT

The city of Stavanger has extensive experience in prevention and preparedness based on an all-hazard risk assessment. One of the subjects that has been prioritized in the city's risk assessment is emergency preparedness of schools. The lessons from these activities might be beneficial for schools in other countries. In 2014 all 44 public schools in the municipality of Stavanger participated in a course on emergency preparedness over three half days. During this course they learned to make a risk analysis, an emergency preparedness plan and they had a «table-top» exercise.

During this course, several of the School Principals asked for more knowledge on how to handle serious incidents that can occur in schools; for example school shootings and other terror attacks. In 2015 The Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection decided to add school shootings as an incident that Norway should be prepared for. Therefore, in 2016 the city of Stavanger arranged a new course over three half days, based on the most serious incidents that can occur at schools. This course had the following content:

Day 1:

- Who are the school shooters, and why do they shoot? Where do school shootings occur? International experience and data.
- Risk analysis.
- How to prevent school shootings. Most of the school shooters have had thoughts about suicide and some of them have tried to commit suicide. How can teachers discover early signs of suicidal ideation – and what to do about it?

Day 2:

- Police; what do the police patrol do when they arrive to a shooting scene, and what do the police expect from the school?
- Psychosocial emergency team; how can they assist schools after a traumatic incident?
- Communication in crisis and how to handle media.

Day3:

- Practice at a school; how can the school handle an ongoing school shooting while waiting for the police to arrive?

In 2017 the city of Stavanger will train the kindergartens for three half days in serious incidents that can happen there, for example kidnapping and violent parents.

Keywords: Risk management, assessment, mitigation, prevention.