



KGH Monthly Newsletter | October – 2019

EDUCATE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

Friday Night Lights

Kiernan Group Holdings (KGH) is a mission driven firm that specializes in preparedness analysis and training. KGH believes that preparedness should be present in every aspect of our lives – where we work, where we learn, where we worship and where we play. Our October newsletter focuses on information and resources to develop a Preparedness Mindset for large venues, particularly stadiums, and sporting venues.



Preparedness at Stadiums and Large Venues

Over the past two decades, security has significantly increased in the face of threats and high-profile attacks, such as the 2015 Paris Bombing outside of the Stade de France, at stadiums and large venues. Most people have confronted the screening lines and restrictions on bag sizes as they attend events or go to cheer on their local sports teams. However, these security measures do not detract from the need for a preparedness mindset and the basic skills necessary to act rather than hesitate. Assailants have still attempted to disrupt the spirit of these events and have even taken a different approach – positioning threats on the outermost edges of security where concertgoers and fans become less protected or “soft targets.” The Manchester Arena bombing in 2017 is an unfortunate example of this behavior.

We don’t share this information to strike fear but to reinforce the importance of **situational awareness**, **trusting your gut**, and know what to do in the event of an emergency - **preparedness**. We believe strongly that stadiums and arenas should be safe spaces where communities can share in comradery and enjoy entertainment or competitions free of worry. Check out our “Where We Play” preparedness tips on social media channels.



Preparedness in Action: An alert and trained security guard prevented the suicide bomber from entering the Stade de France during the November 2015 Paris Attacks. The guard knew behavioral and visual cues and the appropriate response protocol, which saved lives.

Spotlight: Clare O’Loughlin, Program Manager

Clare O’Loughlin is the Preparedness Without Paranoia® Program Manager and has extensive experience training and preparing communities. Clare has been a competitive swimmer her entire life and spends her weekends supporting her hometown (DC) sports teams! When she can, she attends Nationals, Redskins, or Capitals games, and was even able to be in downtown DC last year celebrating with the large crowds in front of Capital One Arena when the Capitals won the Stanley Cup. While attending any of these live events, it is always fun to share in the joys of victory, or sadness in defeat that unfortunately happens all too often to DC teams. One of the things that is always on my mind while attending these large gatherings is to be **Aware** and vigilant of my surroundings and **Prepared** should my ordinary day turn extraordinary.

As a swimmer, we trained and worked to refine our stroke technique by swimming *thousands* of yards daily focusing on pace work, drills, sprints, starts and turns, and even sometimes breaking down our stroke into just the fundamental pieces of either our kick or our pull. These various components helped us during the weekly swim meets to achieve personal best times and to score points to help our team outscore and beat the other team. Just like in any team sport, we each had our own individual roles in our win or our loss. The same can be said when it comes to your own individual **preparedness**. We all have a personal responsibility to **aware** and **prepared** when we are out at large crowd events, but we also need to make sure that we are able to **respond** to an emergency if we need to do so.

While supporting DHS in the nationwide Active Shooter Preparedness Program, one of the things that I enjoyed the most was that I felt that I was helping people in all walks of life to be prepared not only where they work, but also where they learn, where they serve, where the worship, and even where they play. Preparedness is a mindset is not just a motto, it’s how we should all live our everyday lives while still enjoying the things that we love the most!

IMPORTANT DATES:



- October 9th – Dr. Kiernan speaking at the Maryland Emergency Response System Leadership Seminar
- October 10th – Dr. Kiernan speaking at the Secure Transport Association in Chicago
- October 16 -17th – Active Threat Preparedness Training at KGH Headquarters. See our website for details – open to the public and discounted rates

RESOURCES:



- DHS, Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places – Resource Guide https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Soft_Targets_Crowded%20Places_Resource_Guide_042018_508.pdf
- NCAA Intercollegiate Athletics Safety and Security Best Practices Guide https://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2017DIIISpo_NCS4IntercollegiateBestPractices_20171220.pdf

FAST FACTS:



- Some states (e.g. Massachusetts) have created Large Venue Task Forces to address security concerns and make recommendations for standards

Preparedness Without Paranoia. Preparedness is a Mindset.



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