QuickLock Sheild®

Patent Pending

Background

As the TSA examines every crash to make planes safer, so should schools examine every school shooting to make schools safer. In the wake of the recent Virginia Tech massacre a pattern of shooter tactics is emerging. Shooters who wish to inflict maximum casualties, seek out rooms with the most students, frequently where there are limited escape opportunities. Most notably, with Columbine and Virginia Tech, classrooms have become target rich environments for suicidal shooters, who simply take position in a classroom doorway, where they can block escape, then shoot or deploy pipe bombs. As a result, classrooms have turned into death traps for students and teachers unable to find refuge. As with VA Tech, some students survived by successfully barricading the door.

Unfortunately, the frequency of these attacks has increased. Despite heightened awareness that has successfully thwarted some planned attacks, they are still happening here and abroad. Based on research and events, it is likely that many troubled people are plotting future attacks. So far, perpetrators have largely been first time offenders, making it increasingly difficult to detect and stop crimes before they happen.

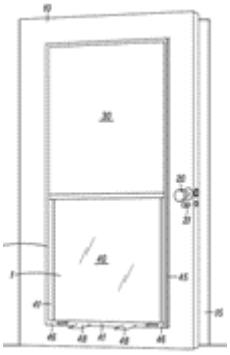
Most doors have locks; however, some do not. Fortunately, schools everywhere are taking this issue seriously and adjusting their crisis plans accordingly. Because the massacre at Va. Tech highlighted the obvious, most schools are installing locks as quickly as they can. This is a futile effort if the door has a window. Even with reinforced wire glass, a shooter can easily shoot the glass out, giving way to the following possibilities:

1. Gain access to the classroom by reaching in and unlocking the door.
2. If there is a shade, physically remove the shade and gain visual access
3. Remain outside but shoot at victims through the window.
4. Reach in through the broken glass to shoot at victims hiding against the wall.
5. Deploy explosives.
6. Use visual access to aim while shooting through the dry wall or door itself.

With current thinking, only expensive bulletproof glass, with shades deployed, combined with locked doors would provide adequate refuge. Bulletproof glass is expensive not to mention that the door may have to be modified to accommodate the unusual width of bullet proof glass. In many cases, a new door would have to be purchased to accommodate the bulletproof glass. Even with the bulletproof glass, measures must be taken to deploy an opaque cover; otherwise, a shooter could aim through the glass and shoot through the door or dry wall.

There are an infinite number of measures schools can take to improve security, but most of them are too expensive. Furthermore, by nature, many campuses are vulnerable to shooters with concealed weapons regardless of how stringent the security measures are. If shooters gains access to a school building, there is no place of refuge for students or teachers who have glass windows on their interior classroom doors. Without introducing a level of security found at airports, it is easy for a shooter to gain access. Replacing the glass with bullet proof glass would be cost prohibitive and may violate fire codes. Replacing the doors that do not have windows would also be expensive and possibly illegal. Further, schools frown on unsightly bars in interior classroom doors. There is currently a need for an inexpensive and unobtrusive means for improving the vulnerability of classroom door windows.

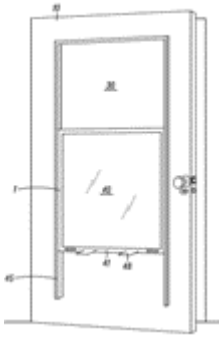
Description of the QuickLock Shield®



Retrofit windowed classroom doors with fortified metal or other difficult to penetrate material "screen" devices that can be deployed quickly in the event a warning siren is sounded, gun shots are heard or suspicious behavior is observed. The present invention provides devices that are inexpensive enough to be realistically considered, light enough for anyone to deploy, readily available for quick deployment and, if necessary, ADA compliant. In one embodiment the material is opaque or semi-opaque.

A bullet may indeed penetrate the material as it could the door itself, but with a locked door, and with limited or no visibility inside the classroom, a shooter would not be able to aim at targets, and students or teachers could seek refuge against a wall or somewhere that is out of range for any bullet trajectories fired from outside the "screen". Further it would be difficult or impossible for the shooter to reach in and unlock the door or to stick a weapon in through the window to shoot. The mechanism and use of this device, when combined with a locked door will reasonably frustrate and delay a shooter while law enforcement closes in, in the same manner as a locked door with no window. This mechanism and use simply enables the same effective security level for doors with windows, as doors without windows. This allows schools to comply with laws that require windows, without compromising the safety of teachers and children in classes with door windows.

The mechanism may be deployed in several different ways depending on factors that include state and local laws affecting such a device. The device in its simplest form folds up or otherwise moves into place over the classroom door window. When deployed it helps prevent someone breaking the window from reaching in the classroom and makes it difficult or impossible to see in through the window. This can be accomplished by selecting materials for the screen sufficiently opaque and strong to resist gun shots or shattering effects and a screen that locks into place such that a shooter can not push it even partially aside and see or reach into the classroom. In most cases, the



QuickLock Shield can be mounted on the lower portion of the classroom door for folding or sliding into position over the door window. It can also be covered, colored or otherwise camouflaged to be unobtrusive on the door. Materials for device include but are not limited to metal frames, security mesh, wire, Kevlar type fabrics, cage or bars, and the like as suitable for optimum performance and complicity with applicable laws. Such materials as bulletproof glass or heavy bars would not only be not cost effective they would be too heavy to be within the scope of the invention. Optimum performance is also measured by several factors including performance, durability, weight, supply, legality and cost. Materials used are readily available in home building and security retailers; however, the use for this application is unique, as is the way in which the mechanism works.