



International Public Safety Association Statement Mass Casualty Incident in Thousand Oaks

Goodyear, Arizona – November 8, 2018

The International Public Safety Association's leadership team and members are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Sergeant Ron Helus, a 29-year veteran of Ventura County Sheriff's Office, who responded to last night's active shooter mass casualty incident. Several first responders from multiple agencies arrived on scene to secure the perimeter and treat the wounded. Their work with recovery continues into today and will be on-going for the foreseeable future. This is the second MCI in the last 30 days.

International Public Safety Association Board Member, J. Scott Quirarte, is a Battalion Chief at Ventura County Fire Department. Quirarte is the project lead for the Ventura County Interagency Active Shooter Response Workgroup. The workgroup developed coordinated response procedures for all county agencies. He was also the lead instructor of program training for over 3,000 law enforcement officers, firefighters, dispatchers and EMS personnel. Quirarte is also a founding member of Ventura County Stop the Bleed program, and a member of the International Public Safety Association's Rescue Task Force and Tactical Emergency Medical Support committees. While serving as Vice-Chair of the International Public Safety Association's RTF committee, he served as a principal author in the development of the [*International Public Safety Association's RTF Best Practices Guide*](#). Quirarte is also the International Public Safety Association's representative on the NFPA 3000 Technical Committee.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Battalion Chief Quirarte and the entire Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the additional emergency responders who were involved with the response and continue to be involved with the recovery.

Next week, November 14 and 15, the International Public Safety Association is hosting a Mass Casualty Incidents Symposium in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. As [Quirarte previously stated](#), "The threat of a mass casualty incident has increased substantially. We must be prepared to handle this dynamic and challenging incident. There is no better way to learn than from those that have responded to this type of incident. We can all talk about what our plan will be when an MCI occurs, but until we experience that, it's all talk. The IPSA's MCI Symposium is bringing together responders that have done more than talk about it, they lived it."

[Registration](#) for the International Public Safety Association's MCI Symposium is open through Tuesday, November 13. All public safety officials are invited to attend.

Stay vigilant. Stay safe.

About the International Public Safety Association

The International Public Safety Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in July 2014 in the State of Arizona to bring the public safety community closer together by offering

opportunities to network, cross-train and build a stronger public safety community capable of an effective joint response to all incidents. www.joinipsa.org

Press Contact

Heather R. Cotter Direct: 866-535-8825 ext 1

heather@joinipsa.org

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