

Trauma kits will allow schools to better respond to emergencies

By Christian Menno, staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 4:30 pm

Whether it be an act of violence or an act of nature, a mass casualty incident at a school is always a nightmare scenario.

And the ability to respond, especially in those first few seconds, can often be the difference between life and death.

In an effort to be properly equipped, 27 schools throughout Bucks County have taken advantage of a federal grant that will pay for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care kits.

On Tuesday, Quakertown police Officer Bob Lee, who serves as the school resource officer for the district, stopped by the Bucks County Public Safety Training Center to pick up one of the kits to be delivered to Quakertown High School.

Lee met with Richard Vona, the county's director of law enforcement training, where he got a firsthand look at the contents of the military-grade box of items.

"It is all about planning and if that happens we're ready, we're prepared, we have the tools now and we have the resources," Lee said. "This puts us well ahead of the game here, having these kits."

Inside each waterproof box is multiple sets of medical supplies such as tourniquets, bandages, blood-clotting pads, scissors, rubber gloves and duct tape splints.

"This isn't like your normal, everyday first aid kit that would be just for one person," Vona said, adding that each one costs about \$675.

Vona said the school districts that sent representatives to a training session back in May were eligible to receive the kits at no cost.

He said Bensalem schools have already been using the TECC supplies for several years.

In terms of what types of incidents the trauma kits could be used for, Vona said that could range from anything from an active shooter to tragedies caused by nature, such as hurricanes or earthquakes.

"The studies that have been done for emergency medicine, for casualty care, for first responders is that



Schools throughout Bucks County have taken advantage of federal grant money to acquire trauma kits to be used to help respond to mass casualty incidents.

the majority of people we find are dying because they are bleeding out,” he said. “So that's what these kits are specifically designed for.”