



## Florissant Valley Fire Protection District

Established To Serve

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## Strategos Class

Article from KPLR's website:

ST. LOUIS, MO ( KPLR ) - From Columbine to Virginia Tech, memories of deadly rampages are changing the training tactics of first responders. The Florissant Valley Fire Department is determined to be ready for disaster.

Today firefighters roles and responsibilities are expanding. Florissant Valley firefighters and EMT's are currently training to deal with an out of control gunman. Todd Burke from Strategos International said "There is the immediate aftermath of dealing with people that need help, people that are injured or have life threatening emergencies."

Marc Bilyeu from the Florissant Valley Fire Department said "You have to get in move quick get them out and it's about saving lives."

In true to life exercises, firefighters are trained for a possible case of mass shooting. As thick smoke fills each of the rooms, the victims played by students from McCluer high school's drama club create pandemonium. Doug Erwin from McCluer high school explained "They are doing everything possible to create a real life experience for them."

52% of these situations are occur in smaller communities. That is why the Florissant Valley fire department made the investment.

Strategos International is based in Kansas City and it recently got a state grant that will help fund 32 more training courses around the state.

So far, the Florissant Valley fire department is the only local fire department to participate in the program.

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