

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **HALIFAX REGIONAL CONDUCTS ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL**

Medical Center Evaluates Emergency Protocols during Shooter Scenario

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (August 28, 2013)**—At approximately 2:00 pm Halifax Regional conducted an active shooter drill on the medical campus Tuesday, August 27, 2013. The drill included the main hospital and all outlying clinics on the Medical Campus. The drill was put in motion when the shooter, portrayed by Johnny Snider, carried a visible weapon into one of the patient entrances and walked toward the elevators toward other units of the hospital.

The Active Shooter drill was coordinated by the Medical Center's Disaster Coordinator and Security Department. This drill was conducted to evaluate the Medical Center's recently implemented emergency protocols and in response to increasing violence and other major casualty incidents that have occurred across the country and other health care facilities. The Active Shooter drill reflects the hospital's commitment to patient, staff and visitor safety.

"Violence in the workplace is very real as seen by recent events at institutions both public and private across the country. Safety is everyone's responsibility. An assailant could be a family member, patient, former patient, employee, or student, said Halifax Regional Security Coordinator B.J. Robistow. We need to be prepared so we can take protective measures. Loss of life can be mitigated with community preparedness training and response during an actual event."

Halifax Co. Emergency Communications (911) and Roanoke Rapids Police Department were given prior notice of the drill so as not to alarm first responders in case of incoming calls from staff or patients on the Halifax Regional medical campus during the time of the drill. County Emergency Manager, Lynn Manning, along NC Emergency Management Area 6 Coordinator, Tim Byers, and EMS Director, Phil Ricks, were all on hand to evaluate the drill.

The goal of the exercise was to simulate other recent major casualty events, such as the recent Atlanta, Georgia school shooting, Sandy Hook, and similar other violent shooting rampages that have taken place in communities very similar to Roanoke Rapids. Through the active shooter drill, Security, Administrators, Managers, and staff had the opportunity to practice their ability to respond immediately to an unexpected event.

"While a tragedy of this nature is never desirable, the Active Shooter Drill tests our ability to surge and treat mass trauma victims while simultaneously keeping patients and employees safe from further harm," said Halifax Regional Emergency Department Nurse and Disaster Coordinator Kristen Landon, RN.

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#### **About Halifax Regional**

*Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.org](http://www.halifaxregional.org).*