Student Goes on Shooting Rampage in Crimea [Russia] School, Kills 17, Wounds 50

Amie Ferris-Rotman, Washington Post, October 17, 2018


MOSCOW — At least 17 people, mostly teenagers, were killed and 50 others were wounded on October 17, 2018 when a student went on a shooting rampage at his high school in Russian-annexed Crimea, Russian authorities said.

Russian investigators identified the gunman as 18-year-old Vladislav Roslyakov. They said he fatally shot himself after the attack in Kerch, a city in eastern Crimea. Russia seized the Crimea region from Ukraine four years ago.

Initial reports described the attack as involving explosives, with possibly terrorist motives.

Russian investigators opened a terrorism probe into the attack, but later changed it to a murder case.

“A preliminary examination of the dead shows they suffered from gunshot wounds,” Russia’s investigative committee said in a statement. “The majority of them are teenagers.”

There were conflicting reports about what took place. Russia’s anti-terrorism committee initially said an explosive device was to blame for the attack on the vocational high school, attended by adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19. It said a bomb was planted in the cafeteria.

President Vladimir Putin expressed his condolences to the families of victims. “It is clear that a crime took place. The motives and scenarios of this tragedy are being studied,” he said at a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi in the Black Sea city of Sochi. He then asked for a moment’s silence.

Russian media released a photograph of Roslyakov showing him with shorn blond hair and combination of black pants and a white T-shirt. His garb drew comparisons to one of the two gunmen in the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, who wore a similar outfit. Roslyakov was pictured holding an automatic rifle.

The Russian news service Mash described Roslyakov as an introverted loner with a fondness for “maniacs.” He purchased an automatic rifle and cartridges last week, his classmates were quoted as saying.

As the wounded poured into a local clinic, the attacker’s mother, a nurse named Galina Roslyakova, attended to them, Mash reported. She was later called away to meet with investigators.

Russia has relatively strict gun laws, and such mass-casualty shootings are rare. In recent years, several incidents have been reported in which students launched attacks with axes, knives and air guns.

Wednesday’s shooting was the first mass-casualty attack on Russian-controlled territory since a suicide bomber killed 16 people on the St. Petersburg metro in April last year. No group claimed responsibility for that attack, but Russian security forces said it was the work of an Islamist radical.
Welcome to the Oregon Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Tech Tuesday segment. This week: Building a digital defense against payroll phishing scams.

The FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center is out with a new warning about fraudsters who are targeting your paycheck via direct deposit. Any worker can be affected by this scam, but the industries getting hit the hardest include education, health care, and commercial airway transportation.

Here’s what happens: the bad guy uses your work login info to get into your employer’s HR system to replace your direct deposit information with his own.

It starts when an employee receives an email that looks just familiar enough that he doesn’t question it too much. The email includes a link or web address that the user clicks on. Once he clicks, he will be directed to a fraudulent site or portal where the victim will be asked to enter his work credentials to confirm his identity. The bad guys use that login ID and password to change the employee’s direct deposit information in the company’s files. Often, the fraudsters even change other account settings in the system, preventing the victim from receiving an email warning that changes have been made to his account.

Here’s how employees can avoid being scammed:

- Make sure you verify with your employer that a suspicious email is valid. Send it to your office’s HR or IT departments for confirmation.
- Keep an eye out for any misspelled words, odd phrasing, and poor grammar. These could be indications that the email is coming from elsewhere in the world.
- If the email includes any links to web pages, hover your mouse over the link and confirm that the URL is exactly the same as that used by the payroll company. Don’t click if you are not 100% sure.

Here are some steps that businesses can take to protect their employees:

- Teach your employees what a phishing scam is and how to avoid it.
- Require that login credentials used for payroll purposes differ from those used for other purposes, such as employee surveys.
- Use two-factor authentication on sensitive systems and information.
- Create protocols that require additional scrutiny to banking changes that appear to be requested by employees.

In the end, a little extra hassle in the short term may prevent a big headache in the long run. As always, if you have been victimized by a cyber fraud, be sure to report it to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or call your local FBI office.

12 Possible Cases of Polio-like Illness in Illinois Children

News Channel 20, October 23, 2018


SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS/WRSP) — The Illinois Department of Public Health is now reporting 12 possible cases of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) in Illinois children.

Early on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, their website mentioned there were 10 confirmed cases, that has since been updated to 12 possible cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that from August 2014 through September 2018, there’s been a total of 386 cases across the U.S. with most of the cases occurring in children.

Right now, the underlying cause of AFM is not known but the CDC has been actively investigating this.

While AFM is not new, the CDC says the increase in cases it saw starting in 2014 is new.
Have you experienced sexual abuse at school or seen it happen to someone else?

By Jennifer Smith Richards and David Jackson

Reporting it to a trusted adult could help protect other students.

Here is what to expect if you tell someone.

No school employee should ever touch you sexually, make sexual comments to you or ask you to have sex.

It is against professional rules.

And if you’re 17 or younger, it’s also a crime in the state of Illinois.

If you are the victim of abuse

**Whom should I tell?**
Find an adult you trust, such as a parent, a teacher or a counselor. Telling might be hard, but it's the right thing to do. You might prevent the same thing from happening to another student.

**Then what happens?**
If you are under the age of 18, the person you tell at school about the abuse is required by law to call child-welfare officials. The person may also call police.

The principal or other school administrators might ask you what happened, but they shouldn’t investigate the matter themselves; they need to bring in experts to do that.

**What if I feel upset?**
You should have access to help in your school. The school principal is supposed to call the district counseling office to offer you crisis counseling or other support.

**What will happen when police or child-welfare workers show up?**
The authorities likely will want to talk to you about the abuse. You should expect the interview to take place somewhere private – it's not supposed to happen in the principal’s office.

**What about my parents?**
Expect your parent or guardian to be contacted, likely by child-welfare agents or police.

If school officials view the situation as an emergency, they might want to talk to you immediately and they probably won’t call your parents.

**What will happen to the accused abuser?**
School officials should not confront the accused abuser about your allegation unless they think children are in immediate danger. That should be left to authorities. If police think the person may have committed a crime, they might arrest him or her. CPS says it will now remove the accused abuser immediately from the school pending an investigation.
What shouldn’t happen

No multiple interviews

You should not be interviewed multiple times by school officials.

There might be several different groups who want to talk to you, including school and district officials, child-welfare workers and the police, but officials at your school shouldn’t make you repeat your story over and over.

No forced statement

School officials aren’t allowed to make you write out a statement. The district’s interview procedures also don’t say it is required.

No harassment at school

You should not feel harassed or belittled at school because you came forward. Tell school authorities if you’re being treated differently, and expect the school to take specific steps to help.
If you witness abuse
If someone you know is a victim of abuse or you suspect they might be, you can help.

What should I do?
If you’re a witness to possible abuse or a friend has told you about inappropriate behavior by a school employee, you should tell an adult you trust right away.

What will happen if I tell?
If the adult wasn’t already aware of the abuse, and the victim is under 18 years old, they will have to call child-welfare workers.

The police may be called, too.

What else might happen?
The school or authorities may request an interview with you. It might be scary to tell what you know, but you could help protect other students from abuse.

Do I have to talk to DCFS?
If you are a witness to abuse, you shouldn’t be forced to talk to a child-welfare worker from the Department of Children and Family Services without the permission of your parents or guardian.