**Case Study: Desert Viejo (DV) Elementary School**

**Demographics**

DV Elementary School is situated in a working class neighborhood.It is a K-6 school and has student body of 1,200 children. The population of students is diverse in culture and race.

**Disposition**

This morning as the children were preparing to go to lunch, a distraught father entered the school yard. Earlier in the day, the distraught father “Ben” had had another argument about custody and visitation with his ex-wife. Ben’s daughter Sierra is an 8-year-old 4th grader at DV Elementary School.

When Ben entered the school grounds, he was carrying an M-16 assault rifle. Ben is a retired veteran who likes to collect guns. His M-16 was equipped with an extended clip, allowing him to carry over 50 rounds of ammunition in the clip attached to the gun. Ben eventually made his way into the school, then the front administrative office and emptied all 50 rounds on the occupants.

A group of students were passing by the front office as the assault began. One child was injured, but not fatally. When emergency services arrive and secure the locked down school, they count 5 fatalities. One of the fatalities was Ben, who took his own life with a hand gun after his killing spree.

The small group of children passing by the office at the time of the assault was the only children who witnessed the horror. The remainder of the student body and teachers report hearing “pops,” crashing, and “breaking stuff” from their classrooms.