

JACKSON COUNTY, IOWA

If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere...

Direct-to-Responders alarm ensures that shooting incident ends quickly

In the quiet, northwest Iowa town of **Maquoketa** (pop. about 6,500), it looked like it was going to be just another regular meeting of the Jackson County Supervisors at the county courthouse that Tuesday morning, Sept. 9, 2014. It didn't turn out that way.

The last item on the morning agenda was an appearance by former City Manager Francis "Gus" Glaser, 71, who wanted to air a dispute about his property taxes. The supervisors explained that his dispute actually was with the city, rather than the county, and they could do nothing about it.

As the supervisors began to adjourn the meeting, witnesses said, Glaser took out a pistol from his briefcase and fired once at the County Assessor, but missed. Within seconds at least two people hit their **SecureTech** panic buttons and one of the supervisors, Larry "Buck" Koos, rushed the shooter.

The SecureTech WAVE notification system immediately broadcast a detailed message over the police radio, "Officer needed in the Supervisors' office."

Within seconds, a police officer responding to the SecureTech voice alarm, arrived on the scene. Two more officers arrived soon after the first. Koos was able to bring down Glaser, and in the ensuing struggle, the shooter was shot and killed with his own gun.

"The system worked exactly as we had hoped," said Jackson County's **Information Technology Director Bjorn Beck**. He noted that the direct-to-responders feature of the system was a major selling point when the county purchased the system in September 2011. "The direct-to-responders system probably saved us 30-60 seconds in the response time, which would seem like an eternity in this kind of situation."

The nearby public library also installed the SecureTech WAVE system in January 2013.

"We had all trained in using the system," Beck said, "but nobody thought something like this actually would happen here."

Security at county courthouses, though, has been an issue of growing concern in Iowa, as elsewhere. "I'm sure it will get a lot more attention after this," Beck said.

Referring to the Jackson County situation, Beck said, "We hope we never have to use the SecureTech system again, but we're sure glad we have it."

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