

# Florida shooting suspect arrested after 17 people killed in high school attack

Updated February 15, 2018 14:28:16



VIDEO: Students are evacuated by police from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. (ABC News)

Seventeen people have been killed in a shooting at a Florida high school on Valentine's Day, local police have confirmed.

Suspect Nikolas Cruz, 19, is a former student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, about 72 kilometres north of Miami.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said Mr Cruz was [taken into custody without incident](#).

"He got expelled for disciplinary reasons, I don't know the specifics," he said.

"We are beginning to dissect his websites and things on social media that he was on and some of the things that have come to light are very, very disturbing.

"I don't know anything about the firearm. He had countless magazines, multiple magazines and at this point we believe he had one AR rifle, I don't know if he had a second one."

**RELATED STORY:** [Suspected Florida shooter a gun-crazy outcast, say locals](#)

**MAP:** [United States](#)

## Key points:

- Suspect Nikolas Cruz is a 19-year-old former student
- 17 people are confirmed dead and several are in surgery
- Stoneman Douglas High School is one of the biggest schools in Florida



### UNSUPPORTED BROWSER

The browser you are using to view this page is no longer supported by ABC News. We recommend you update to a more modern browser.

[Find out more](#)

**Former student under arrest after 17 killed in Florida high school massacre**

**Suspected Florida shooter a gun-crazy outcast, say locals**

**'We cannot accept this': Terrorism expert breaks down over Florida school shooting**

**This is the 18th school shooting so far in America in 2018**

**This student hid from a gunman in a closet at her Florida school for two hours**

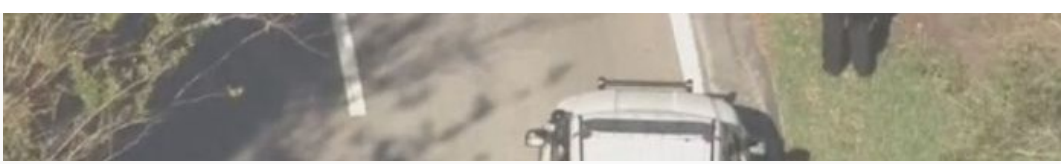
**No, the NRA hasn't had a change of heart on gun control**

**The gun control debate is so toxic there's no point talking about it**

**Will the Texas shooting prompt action on gun violence? Time is ticking**

### TOP STORIES

- [Joyce will take leave next week, Cormann to be acting PM instead](#)
- [Ex-bikie boss Mick Hawi on life support after being shot outside gym](#)
- [Former student under arrest after 17 killed in Florida high school massacre](#)
- [Suspected Florida shooter a gun-crazy outcast, say locals](#)
- [SPORT Competitors question Team GB's skeleton suits after scorching practice times](#)
- [SPORT NBC under fire as snowboard star White apologises for sexual harassment 'gossip' remark](#)
- [Frenchman admits killing girl who vanished from Alps wedding](#)
- [Porn actress ready to speak out about alleged affair with Trump](#)
- [Jobs for loners: Life as 'the smoke alarms of the state'](#)



VIDEO: Police arrest man after Florida shooting (ABC News)



PHOTO: Florida school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz is taken from hospital by police officers. (Supplied: ABC News America)

Sheriff Israel said of those people killed, 12 were inside the building, two were outside the school and one person was on the road.

Sixteen people were taken to hospital but two of them died from their injuries. At least three people remain in a critical condition.

Sheriff Israel said one of the victims who died was a football coach while a deputy sheriff's son had been shot in the arm, but was being treated at a local hospital for non-life threatening injuries.



PHOTO: Medical personnel tend to a victim following the shooting. (AP: John McCall)

## Shooter 'set off the fire alarm'







Florida Senator Bill Nelson told CNN he had been briefed by the FBI that the shooter wore a gas mask and had smoke grenades, but did not know if he had used the grenades.

- Charles Waterstreet pulls out of Q&A #MeToo special
- Analysis: The US approach to office romances is a world away from Canberra's
- Help! My child is a quitter, what should I do?
- Mehajer's alleged helper in car crash 'conspiracy' swears at reporters, denies knowing him
- Toddler rescued from train tracks by quick-acting student
- Palmer will 'enjoy the fruits' of \$350m court win and not reopen Nickel refinery, if assets are frozen
- 'Sombre' Lena Dunham tells of hysterectomy at 31 in deeply personal essay
- Analysis: What lies beneath the spectacle of North Korea
- Indoor trampoline centres land almost 500 kids in hospital over five years
- **SPORT** Kim Jong-un impersonator fools cheerleaders
- Investigations into sexual misconduct by Darwin-based US marines dropped
- Instagram-friendly signage at Aboriginal massacre site prompts outrage
- This is why you should probably eat more sardines
- Jacob Zuma resigns with immediate effect

Get the headlines to your mobile.  
NEWS on Messenger



### CONNECT WITH ABC NEWS

News Podcasts  
Catch up with ABC News programs.



**GOT A NEWS TIP?** >

If you have inside knowledge of a topic in the news, [contact the ABC](#).

**NEWS IN YOUR INBOX**

Top headlines, analysis, breaking alerts

**ABC BACKSTORY** >

ABC teams share the story behind the story and insights into the making of digital, TV and radio content.

**EDITORIAL POLICIES** >

Read about our editorial guiding principles and the enforceable standard our journalists follow.

"[He] set off the fire alarm so the kids would come pouring out of the classrooms into the hall. And there the carnage began," Mr Nelson said.

[External Link: The layout of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida](#)

Teacher Melissa Falkowski said her class was evacuating for what they thought was a fire drill.

"We got maybe 15, 20 steps out of the classroom and we were told that we were 'Code Red'," Ms Falkowski told CNN.

"We ran back inside and crouched down on the floor ... there were kids in the closet."

Ms Falkowski said her friend who was teaching in the freshman building, where the shooting reportedly happened, said she saw three bodies on the floor as she was leaving.



VIDEO: [Florida high school students describe hearing gunshots](#) (ABC News)

She said the teachers had been trained on how to deal with a shooting just six weeks ago.

"If we hadn't had that training, it could have been a lot worse," she said.

"In fact, a lot of us probably thought this was the drill that we were supposed to have this semester to practice. And it wasn't, it was the real thing."

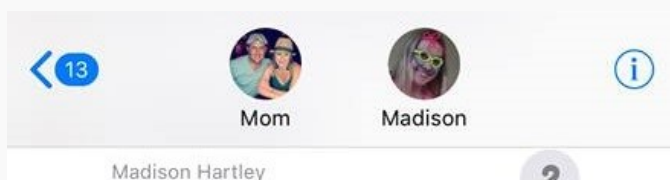


VIDEO: [Florida's Governor labels shooting 'pure evil'](#) (ABC News)

## 'Have you heard from your child yet?'

McKenzie Hartley told Hack her 17-year-old sister was [forced to hide in a closet for more than two hours](#) while the gunman entered the school and shot her classmates.

"I found out almost immediately because my sister's



friend was in one of the first classrooms that unfortunately got shot up," Ms Hartley said.

"Her friend texted her almost immediately saying 'get out of the way, hide — there's someone in the school with a gun'.

"My sister sent me and my mum a text immediately saying, 'Oh my God there's a shooter on campus'.

"Unfortunately she never got evacuated because they suspected he might have been in that building, so she spent two-and-a-half hours just hiding in a closet with her whole class."

Len Murray's 17-year-old son, a junior at the school, sent his parents a chilling text message.

"Mom and Dad, there have been shots fired on campus at school. There are police sirens outside. I'm in the auditorium and the doors are locked."

Those words came at 2:30pm. A few minutes later, he texted again saying: "I'm fine."

Mr Murray raced to the school only to be stopped by authorities under a highway overpass within view of the school buildings in Parkland.

No information was immediately given to parents, Mr Murray said.

"I'm scared for the other parents here. You can see the concern in everybody's faces."

"Everybody is asking, 'Have you heard from your child yet?'"



**INFOGRAPHIC:** McKenzie got these messages from her sister who hid inside a closet to hide from the gunman (Supplied)



**PHOTO:** Family member embrace following a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. (AP: Wilfredo Lee)

Aerial footage showed police in camouflage with weapons drawn entering the school.

Dozens of students could be seen frantically running and others quickly walking out as emergency workers treated those who were injured.

Some students exited buildings in single-file rows with hands raised overhead to show they carried no weapons.





**VIDEO:** SWAT officers evacuate Florida high school following shooting (ABC News)

ABC/wires

Topics: [crime](#), [law-crime-and-justice](#), [police](#), [united-states](#)

First posted February 15, 2018 07:36:58

## FEATURES



### 18th school shooting

Florida has made headlines after 17 people were killed at a high school north of Miami, but this is far from the first school shooting in America so far this year.



### Alcohol on Mars

When we eventually make it to Mars, how will we sustain ourselves? Remarkably, research has shown plants might be able to grow more-or-less naturally.



### Can AFLX rival Big Bash success?

With silver footballs, icy-pole goal posts and circus acrobats, Australian rules' supercharged version AFLX has sceptics and traditionalists raising their eyebrows.



### Carnival around the world

Bright costumes, street dancing and celebrations take place across Europe and the Americas as the carnival season draws to a colourful close.

## TOP STORIES

- [Joyce will take leave next week, Cormann to be acting PM instead](#)
- [Ex-bikie boss Mick Hawi on life support after being shot outside gym](#)
- [Former student under arrest after 17 killed in Florida high school massacre](#)
- [Suspected Florida shooter a gun-crazy outcast, say locals](#)
- [Competitors question Team GB's skeleton suits after scorching practice times](#)

## JUST IN

- ['We cannot accept this': Terrorism expert breaks down over Florida school shooting](#)
- [Unemployment rate rises in SA despite 5,300 new jobs](#)
- [The US approach to office romances is a world away from Canberra's](#)
- [Woman forced to squat in own home as work bans halt new power connections](#)
- [Joyce will take leave next week, Cormann to be acting PM instead](#)
- [Charles Waterstreet pulls out of](#)

## MOST POPULAR

- [Former student under arrest after 17 killed in Florida high school massacre](#)
- [Princess Mary's father-in-law Prince Henrik dies aged 83](#)
- [Why I decided to skip home ownership to retire at 35](#)
- [Suspected Florida shooter a gun-crazy outcast, say locals](#)
- [Joyce fends off questions about rent-free apartment as Labor calls for his head](#)
- [Frenchman admits killing girl who](#)

## ANALYSIS & OPINION

- [The US approach to office romances is a world away from Canberra's](#)
- [Will A-League fans ever care about the Asian Champions League?](#)
- [What lies beneath the spectacle of North Korea](#)
- [The 'most dangerous man in cricket' sounds a warning to the AFL over super-fast footy](#)
- [Social media is in the doghouse — both for polities and the public](#)
- [Joyce affair highlights our weak regulation of ministerial staffers](#)

- NBC under fire as snowboard star White apologises for sexual harassment 'gossip' remark
- Frenchman admits killing girl who vanished from Alps wedding
- Porn actress ready to speak out about alleged affair with Trump
- Jobs for loners: Life as 'the smoke alarms of the state'
- Charles Waterstreet pulls out of Q&A #MeToo special

#### Q&A #MeToo special

- This is the 18th school shooting so far in America in 2018
- Will A-League fans ever care about the Asian Champions League?
- Norway's pants party taking Pyeongchang by storm
- Toddler rescued from train tracks by quick-acting student

#### vanished from Alps wedding

- Porn actress ready to speak out about alleged affair with Trump
- Trump's lawyer says he paid porn actress out of his own pocket
- Army Reserve service record stuff-up adds to Joyce's woes
- Competitors question Team GB's skeleton suits after scorching practice times

- The rise of the Chinese robots, and what it means for humanity
- Assange has one of his worst days as judge rips apart legal case
- What rubbish can tell us about Melbourne's 19th-century sex workers
- Why I decided to skip home ownership to retire at 35

## SITE MAP

### Sections

- [ABC News](#)
- [Just In](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [World](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Analysis & Opinion](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Topics](#)
- [Archive](#)
- [Corrections & Clarifications](#)

### Local Weather

- [Sydney Weather](#)
- [Melbourne Weather](#)
- [Adelaide Weather](#)
- [Brisbane Weather](#)
- [Perth Weather](#)
- [Hobart Weather](#)
- [Darwin Weather](#)
- [Canberra Weather](#)

### Local News

- [Sydney News](#)
- [Melbourne News](#)
- [Adelaide News](#)
- [Brisbane News](#)
- [Perth News](#)
- [Hobart News](#)
- [Darwin News](#)
- [Canberra News](#)

### Media


- [Video](#)
- [Audio](#)
- [Photos](#)

### Subscribe

- [Podcasts](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [NewsMail](#)

### Connect

- [Upload](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Suggest a Contributor](#)

 [Change to mobile view](#)

This service may include material from Agence France-Presse (AFP), APTN, Reuters, AAP, CNN and the BBC World Service which is copyright and cannot be reproduced.

AEDT = Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time which is 11 hours ahead of UTC (Greenwich Mean Time)