

At least 32 dead at Virginia Tech

by UPI

BLACKSBURG, Va. - At least 32 people were killed and 15 injured in a hail of gunfire at Virginia Tech Monday in the worst school massacre in U.S. history.

The rapidly rising death toll included many students as well as the gunman, school spokesmen said.

"It is difficult to comprehend senseless violence on this scale," Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said in a statement. A White House spokeswoman said President Bush was "horrified."

The first shooting was reported at 7:15 a.m. in West Ambler Johnston Hall, the largest dormitory on the Blacksburg, Va., campus, Virginia Tech President Charles Steger said.

About two hours later, shots rang out at Norris Hall. Engineering students were reportedly gunned down in classrooms by a gunman described by witnesses as heavily armed, Fox News reported.

It was not immediately known if the gunman was shot by police or by his own hand, police said.

The campus was placed on lockdown and students were told to stay indoors and away from all windows. By mid-afternoon, police were evacuating the campus and letting staff leave the secured area.

Local, county and state police as well as the FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents were at the scene.

Classes were canceled through Tuesday.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

At least 32 dead at Virginia Tech by UPI