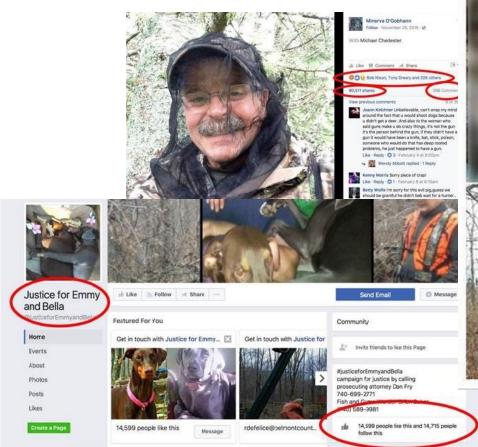
6:41 pm., Nov. 28 Man posts that his neighbor shot and killed his two dogs.

8:40 p.m. Nov. 28 Your company is tagged in the post. Shooter identified as your employee. Post gets 90,000 shares and 400 comments that evening.



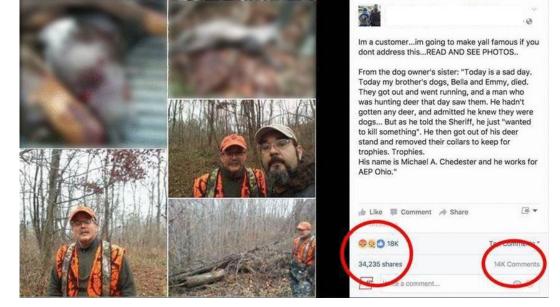
# added 5 new photos. November 28 at 6.41pm · 🚱

I would like to thank Mike Chedester of St. Clairsville, for murdering the only things in this world which I had left to love. I have had really tough time with life since Kat left me this July. Those dogs he killed where my best friends, my buddys, my foot warmers and my companions. I loved those dogs with all my heart. I don't know how you didn't hear me screaming for them from every hilltop in the valley, especially when you where 300 yards from one place I yelled. I think worst of all Mike, you kept their collars as a trophy.

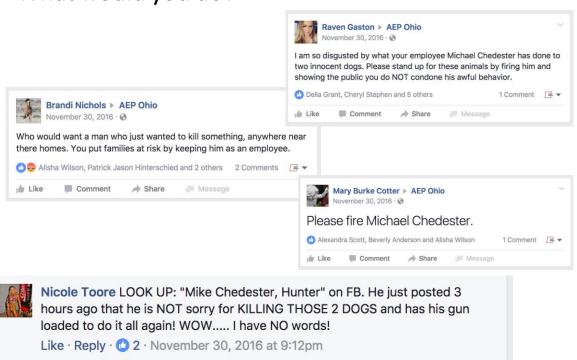
I know the temptation is very strong, but please stop DOXing him. #JusticeforEmmyandBella should come through legal means, not illegal ones.



Widespread condemnation of company and the employee. Thousands of demands for firing, threats to employees. Family members, supervisors, and facility locations tagged in posts. Ugly fake pages created about the employee.



### What would you do?







### **AEP Social Media Incident**

Company's first response post at 12:51 p.m. the next day. Internal statement distributed to employees.

Story picks up national and international interest on social media. Traditional media picks up the story.



Justin Pound Is that form killing the dogs o wait u won't acknowledge that will u hope u fire that pos

Like · Reply · Message · 1 23 · November 29, 2016 at 12:28pm



AEP Ohio AEP Ohio is reviewing this situation. We are sincerely saddened by the loss of these dogs. Many of our employees are pet owners and along with the company, are very active in support of various animal shelters and humane societies.

Like · Reply · 6 52 · Commented on by Hootsuite [?] · November 29, 2016 at 12:31pm

→ View more replies

### Supervisors, please post for employees without email access.

Many of you may have heard about an incident that occurred yesterday involving an AEP Ohio employee and the death of two dogs. Posts about the situation have appeared and escalated on social media. The incident occurred on the employee's property during his personal time off.

Below is a statement that is being shared on our social media channels and with employees who interact with customers. Employees are reminded that AEP has a social media policy and guidelines and are encouraged to refrain from making comments regarding this situation. If you are approached directly and feel the need to respond, the below statement should be used. As always, if you see something suspicious around our facilities or equipment, please contact AEP Security or your local law enforcement.

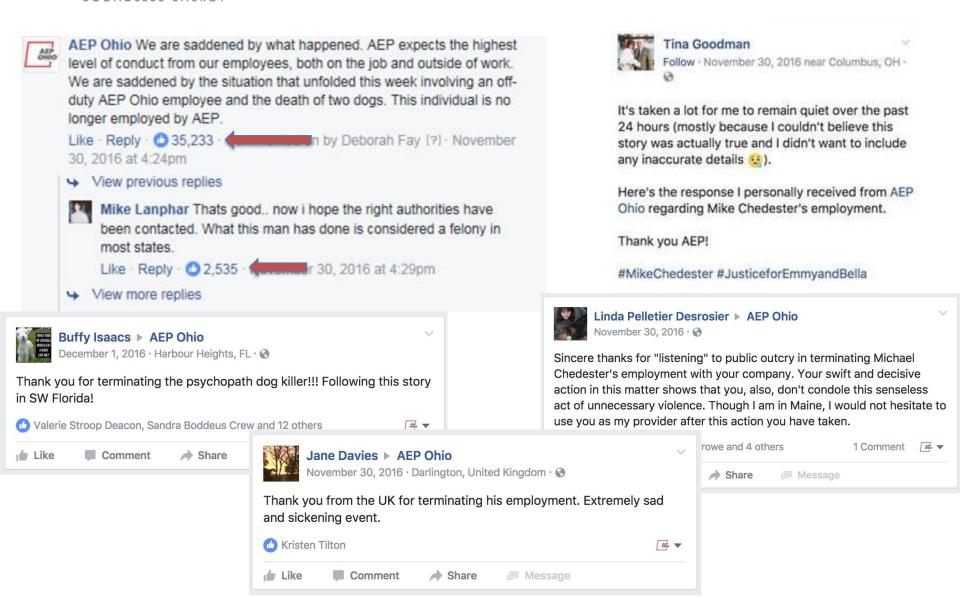
#### AEP Statement

AEP is reviewing this situation. We are sincerely saddened by the loss of these dogs. Many of our employees are pet owners and, along with the company, are very active in support of various animal shelters and humane societies.



### **AEP Social Media Incident**

BOUNDLESS ENERGY"

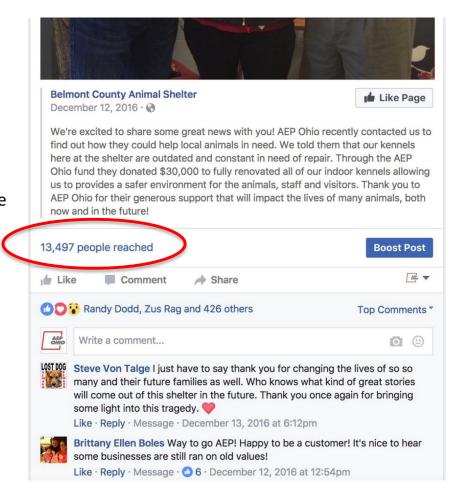




### **Lessons Learned**

BOUNDLESS ENERGY"

- Be prepared. Establish roles and response guidelines for various scenarios.
- Response needs to be swift and updated frequently.
   Limit approvals to key players. Senior leadership needs to understand the speed required.
- Doing the right thing and responding with the right tone is critical for turning the tide.
- Arm employees and key stakeholders with appropriate direction/talking points.
- Stop all engagement, communications, advertising that would not serve the company during the crisis.
- Begin thinking of repair/recovery efforts as soon as possible. Make sure timing is appropriate.
- Document and screen shot as much as you can!





## **AEP Crisis Response Guidelines**

- Put victims, public safety, the environment and long-term impacts first. Express genuine empathy. Admit and apologize for any negative impacts.
- Communicate openly and frequently. Social media will amplify the story quickly. We
  have to respond swiftly, effectively and personally. Doing the right thing and
  responding with the right tone is critical for turning the tide.
- Follow AEP's values and brand promise.
- Be responsible and accountable. Do not assign blame.
- Be visible. Leadership should be visible and accountable. They should engage, if appropriate. Leadership tone is critical.
- Be honest. Stick to verified facts and admit what you don't know. Use clear, understandable language. Avoid downplaying the severity. Do not over-state control.
- Be transparent. Take ownership of what happened. Talk about how we will resolve things and prevent them from reoccurring.
- Make sure that messages address what the audience wants/needs to know.