

Active Shooter SITUATIONS

In an **Active Shooter Situation**, you will have decisions to make immediately. Remember, an active shooter situation is unpredictable and evolves quickly. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement may arrive on the scene, you as an individual must be prepared mentally and physically to deal with a active shooter situation.

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life.

RUN – HIDE – FIGHT

RUN - Evacuate the area immediately if there is an accessible escape path. You should already have an escape route and plan in mind. It doesn't matter if others agree to follow you. Leave your belongings behind. If they are not a hindrance to you, help others escape. Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be. Keep your hands visible at all times and remember to follow the instructions of any police officers. Do not attempt to move wounded people and immediately call 911 when you are safe.

HIDE - If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should: Be out of the active shooter's view; Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door);

Does not trap you or restrict your options for movement. To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place, lock the door or blockade the door with heavy furniture. If the Active Shooter is in your area, **silence** your cell phone, turn off any source of noise, hide behind large items, remain calm and always remember to **stay quiet**. Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location. If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

FIGHT - Take action against the active shooter as a last resort, and **only when your life is in imminent danger**. Attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by **acting as aggressively** as possible against him/her, throwing items and improvising weapons, **yelling** and **committing** to your actions.

WHEN CALLING FOR HELP (911), remember to give the location of the active shooter, the number of shooters, if more than one. A physical description of shooter(s), the number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s) and most importantly the number of potential victims as well as their location.

WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

REMEMBER:

- The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons. **They are there for one purpose, to STOP the Threat.**
- Keep hands visible at all times and avoid making quick, jerky movements toward officers.
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises.
- Try to remain calm and listen to the instructions of the officers responding.
- Give the location and physical description of the shooter if you can.
- If you are still in the building, you will be given instructions on when and how to safely exit by Law Enforcement Officers.

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RESOURCES: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS): www.dhs.gov/video/options-consideration-active-shooter-training-video