

# Active Shooter Threat

While encountering an active threat on campus is remote, we encourage members of the campus community to review these guidelines. In an emergency situation, your knowledge and awareness can make a critical difference. Working together we can provide a safe environment for our students, faculty and staff. In addition to reading the information below, please take a few minutes to watch *Run, Hide, Fight*.

## What is an active threat?

An "active threat" is defined as any incident which creates an immediate threat or presents an imminent danger to the campus community. In addition to offenders armed with firearms (active shooters), other types of weapons or instruments may be used by those who want to cause harm. One or more assailants may be involved. They may be very near or far away, at one or several locations, targeting students, faculty/staff, or random victims. No two situations are exactly alike.

## Trust your instincts!

If there is a shooter or assault, try to remain calm. Your actions will influence others. A survival mindset can help you and those around you avoid catastrophe. Cooperate in taking responsibility for your personal safety and security.

## Are you able to evacuate?

- Try to stay calm and determine the location of the threat.
- Warn other faculty, staff, students and visitors to take immediate shelter.
- Call 911 as soon as possible, although escaping is your priority.
- If a safe exit does exist, take it as quickly as possible.
- Continue running until you are well cleared from the location of the threat. Find a safe location and call 911 to tell the police of your location.

If the only exit is through a window, consider the consequences of the fall:

- How high are you from the ground?
- Can you land in shrubs or grass to decrease the potential for serious injury?
- Can you make an improvised rope out of clothing, belts or other items?

## If you cannot evacuate

- Try to stay calm and determine the location of the threat.
- Take shelter in the nearest office, classroom, closet or other area which can be secured. Barricade the door using desks, bookshelves, or other heavy objects. If the door opens outward, attach one end of a belt, scarf, rope to the door handle and the other end to a heavy object.
- If the door has a window, cover it.
- Turn off lights.
- Look for other possible escape routes, such as windows or other doors.
- Call 911 and tell them what is happening. Speak quietly and then set your cell phone to vibrate or silent. If you can't speak, leave the line open so the dispatcher can listen to what is taking place. Normally the location of a 911 call can be determined without speaking.
- Stay low to the ground and remain as quiet as possible.
- Once in a secure location, do not open the door for anyone. Do not approach police officers as they attempt to locate and neutralize the threat. The police officers will return to assist you once the threat has been neutralized.
- When Campus Police arrive, obey all commands. You may be asked to keep your hands in the air; you may even be handcuffed until the police assess the situation. These steps are taken for safety reasons.

## Is there an active shooter in your presence?

If you are in a crowded room and the threat is shooting, "play dead" or quietly crawl to safety. Do not attempt to make contact with the individual, unless no other option is available.

If you are with a **group**, as an action of last resort, you might choose to take the offense:

- If the shooter is entering the room, position yourself in location that allows for an element of surprise.
- Throw anything available at the threat. Aim for the face to distract him/her.
- Attack as a group, swarming around the threat.
- Grab the threat's arms, legs or head and take him/her to the ground. Use body weight to secure him/her.
- "Fight dirty" - kick, bite, gouge eyes.
- Have someone in the group call 911.
- When Campus Police arrive, obey all commands. You may be asked to keep your hands in the air; you may even be handcuffed until the police assess the situation. These steps are taken for safety reasons.

## Have you apprehended the offender?

- Make sure the suspect is secured (body weight, belts, etc.)
- Move any possible weapons away from the threat.
- Do not hold a weapon.
- Call 911 and advise law enforcement that the threat/shooter is down.
- Provide your location and stay on the line if possible.
- When Campus Police arrive, obey all commands. You may be asked to keep your hands in the air; you may even be handcuffed until the police assess the situation. These steps are taken for safety reasons.

## When law enforcement arrives

- Give the location of the shooter/offender(s).
- Tell officers the number of shooter/offender(s).
- Provide a physical description of the shooter/offender(s)
- Describe the type and number of weapons.
- DO NOT approach officers.
- DO NOT point.
- DO NOT scream or yell.
- DO NOT pose a threat.
- Remain quiet.
- Follow directions.

Take a few minutes to view *Run, Hide, Fight*.

You may also view the Department of Homeland Security video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvkdGK2j2Bs>