

Active Shooter Response
Personal Considerations

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Location Factors

- Does your location provide timely warning?
- Are there armed police on campus?
- How close are they and what are campus/local police response times?
- How well are campus police or security officials trained?
- Are there floor and building wardens?
- How many and how close are entrances/exits?
- Are evacuation assembly areas identified and well-marked?
- What is the composition of walls (sheet rock; cinder block; glass)? Do they offer cover or concealment?
- What is the composition and shape of windows? Can they be opened? Can a person exit through them?
- Is it possible to open windows/break glass?
- What floor is one on and is jumping a possibility?
- Is the landing area for a jumper hospitable, or are there obstacles to a safe landing?
- How far is it to the stairs (avoid elevators)?
- What is the availability of concealment (hides you) and cover (stops a bullet) along your exit route, where you may decide to hide, and in evacuation/assembly areas?
- Are other people available to exit with you or help you fight?
- Is the door inward or outward opening, and can it be secured in a potential hiding place?
- Are weapons available (e.g., fire extinguishers, pens, and keys); and are there means to secure the door?
- Are there emergency response posters/instructions by law enforcement?
- Do hallways and hiding areas have communications devices that could provide threat status updates?

The Shooter/Threat

- Can you see the shooter?
- How far away is the shooter?
- What is his apparent size/strength?
- How many shooters do you hear or see?
- What types of weapons and how many does the shooter have?
- Have you heard explosions?
- If you encounter the shooter, is he reloading?

You

- Are you in good health?
- What is your strength and stamina?
- Are you able to run and do you have good mobility on stairs?
- What is your attitude (lamb; warrior)?
- Are you willing to improvise and use a weapon?
- Do you have relevant training/experience (e.g., military, martial arts, first aid, police presentations)?
- Do you feel obligations to others, such as limited mobility students in your class?
- Do you feel a higher perceived obligation to stay to assist those who cannot or will not evacuate or try to save as many as you can by leading an evacuation?
- Are others with you, who can assist you in running, hiding and/or fighting?
- Do you have a mobile safety or alerting app (instructions on how to respond and the ability to provide information and receive information updates)?

Strategy Selection Factors

Run

- Keep hands high with fingers spread and do not carry anything lest officers assume you are carrying a weapon or a bomb. Further, do not grab/hinder officers or make sudden movements toward them.
- Stay away from walls (bullets ricochet 6-12”), but recognize incoming responders will be moving down the middle of the halls.
- Advance from cover to cover, if available.
- Swing wide before turning a corner to see any threat around the corner before committing to the turn.
- Do not run in a straight line if you see the shooter.
- If shot, compress wound but keep on moving.
- Improvise armor (e.g., a thick text book in your shirt, front and back, may protect against a gunshot).
- Avoid elevators.
- Follow instructions of responders, security personnel, wardens, etc.
- When outside, get behind cover, don't cluster and look for bombs and secondary shooters.
- Do not leave campus until so instructed so as not to delay emergency responders arriving at the scene and medical vehicles evacuating the wounded to hospitals.
- Look for suspicious people in the evacuation areas where a second attack could be planned.
- Be prepared to fight for your life.

Hide

- Turn off cell phones and lights.
- Communicate with hand signals instead of talking.
- Do NOT cluster in corners or interior rooms since it makes you and others easier targets for the shooter, reduces your defensive mobility, and lessens the chances of escaping outside if shot to receive medical attention.
- Secure the door by wedging some non-slip article (a shoe with a rubber sole, wallet, etc.) under it.
- Barricade the door by positioning a body across it on the floor if the person's location is undetectable to the shooter.
- Tie the door's hydraulic arm with a belt or a tie to prevent it from opening.
- Seek out cover, if available; if not, conceal yourself.
- Once the door is secured, do not open it until police arrive and you confirm their identity via the college alerting system or some other reliable means.
- Be prepared to fight for your life.

Fight (Whether you elect to run or hide, your primary purpose is to escape so you needn't subdue the shooter. One must be prepared to fight whether one runs or hides.)

- Recognize that there are no limits to your attack. It is a “no holds barred” fight for your life.
- Sustain the attack until the shooter is no longer a threat or you can get away.
- Strike key targets, such as the neck, eyes and groin.
- Stay away from muzzle and try to control it (easier with a rifle or shotgun than a handgun).
- Fight with any/all available weapons: pens, rolled up newspaper, large text book, heavy pocketbook or backpack, finger nails, car keys, knee, elbow, fire extinguisher; chairs, laptops coke can or rock in a sock (prison weapon). If in a lab, are there chemicals that can be used to incapacitate the shooter?
- Attack with a group of people, if possible.
- Use belts, ties, electronic cables for hands.
- Know when to run vs. fight (If you are within shooter's personal zone, it may be better to attack.)
- Is the shooter reloading? If so, attack if you are near and have a warrior mindset. If not, run away.