

## ACTIVE SHOOTER

An active shooter event is occurring with increasing frequency, and ultimately, each person is responsible for their own safety and decisions. Active shooters generally begin shooting at a number of people without warning and in most cases there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Essentially, adults and children have three options when confronted with this crisis: **Run**, **Hide**, or **Fight**. When a hostile person(s) is causing deadly harm or the imminent threat of deadly harm, the County recommends the following precautions.

- Dial 911. Report your location and situation.
- Silence your cell phone (vibrate mode).
- Evacuate (**Run**) if you can do so safely, and only if you know where the intruder is located. If you decide to run, do not run in a straight line and leave your belongings behind. Use trees, vehicles, or any other object to block yourself from view as you run.
- If you are unable to escape the building, you must decide what action to take; **hide** or **fight**. You can try to hide, but make sure it is a well-hidden place so you will not be found as the intruder searches for more victims.
- Barricade yourself in the room using furniture or anything you can push against the door and remain calm.
- Lock windows and doors. Close blinds or curtains. Turn off lights. Stay quiet (cellphone in vibrate/silent mode only).
- Stay away from windows and doors. If possible, proceed with “Lockdown” procedures for your building.
- Do not stay in an open hallway or common area; there are no protections from an armed intruder in open areas.
- If an active intruder has been spotted, do not sound the fire alarm, nor respond to the fire alarm if it has been activated. A fire alarm requires everyone to evacuate the building, which could move people out into the open and placing them in more danger.
- If the intruder is causing death or serious physical injury and you are unable to run or hide, you may choose to play dead if other victims are around you.
- The last option you have if caught in an open area may be to **fight**. If you choose to fight, find an object that can cause harm (fire extinguisher or sharp object) and hide until the last moment, then use the element of surprise to fight the intruder.

*(continued)*

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- If you are caught by the intruder and choose not to fight back, do not look the intruder in the eye and follow their directions.
- Once the police arrive, obey all instructions. This may involve being handcuffed or putting your hands in the air.

The FBI and other investigative bodies have repeatedly found that there is no accurate profile of shooters. However, several clear behavior warning signs have been identified:

- Threatens harm or talks about killing staff.
- Actively involved with a family dispute (divorce or separation).
- Constantly starts or participates in fights.
- Loses temper or self-control easily.
- Assaults others repeatedly.
- Possesses weapons or has a preoccupation with them.
- Becomes frustrated easily and converts frustration into an uncontrollable physical violence.

If anyone believes that someone is an imminent risk for violent or suicidal behavior, they are directed to call 911 immediately.

## TERMS AND PROCEDURES

**Lockdown**—Enhanced security measures taken to protect against potentially violent intruders inside the building.

- Call 911, stay in place within the building.
- Remain in locked offices, away from windows, and unobservable (lights off, blinds drawn, door windows obscured with paper).
- Disregard fire alarm. This is a common trick by intruders to bring people out into the open.

**Secure the Building**—Enhanced security measures taken to protect against potentially violent intruders outside of the building.

- Prevent all entry by unauthorized individuals.
- Employees are free to move about inside the building.
- Lock all exterior doors and windows.
- Post someone to monitor the main building entrance to control access.