

ACTIVE SHOOTER

Situations where one or more individuals attempt to use deadly force against many people are very fluid and changing. It is impossible to anticipate exactly how the situation will evolve; therefore, it is impossible to provide absolute guidelines. Taking the time to think through possible actions in advance can create an important advantage in the event an active shooter incident occurs. Active shooter incidents can happen at any location where people gather, and usually start quickly and without warning. If an active shooter incident occurs on campus, call 911 as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the initial phases of an active shooter situation, individuals must make decisions based upon their assessment of the situation. The Chesapeake College Department of Public Safety recommends the use of Deliberation as it is described in CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training.

Deliberation- Avoid, Deny, and Defend.

A. AVOID

1. Pay attention to your surroundings.
2. Know where the exits and safe rooms are in your building.
3. Move away from the source of the threat as quickly as possible.
4. Put as much distance and barriers as possible between you and the threat. Do not go toward the sound of gunfire to investigate and/or try to help. Get away from the area. It's better to be a moving target than a non-moving target.
5. Do not set off the fire alarm in a lockdown. People may become targets leaving the buildings and gathering outside.
6. Call 911 only after you are in a safe place.

B. DENY

If it is not possible to safely get out of the area, consider locking down. Lockdown may be the best option if the shooter(s) are some distance away. If a lockdown becomes necessary, try to keep people from coming in contact with the shooter(s) or violent person(s) by going to places that can be secured.

1. Lock the doors.

- Check to see if your door is locked when you close it. When possible, Public Safety will leave the door in a locked setting so all you have to do is close it. Verify this daily by checking the door at the beginning of your class. Consider closing your door once the class has started.

2. Lights out.

- If an incident occurs and you must shelter in place turn out the lights, this includes cell phones.

3. Remain out of sight.

- Stay away from any windows that the offender can look in through.

4. Remain silent.

- Total silence, the idea is to give the impression that the room is vacant.

5. Barricade the door.

- If your door opens in. Use desks or anything that is heavy enough to keep the door from opening. If your door swings out use a rope, extension cord, belt or any other like material to tie the door shut.

6. If a fire alarm goes off while you are in lockdown or sheltering in a safe room, assess the situation before leaving shelter. Consider the possibility that the alarm may have been set off by the shooter(s). If smoke or fire is present, exit the area.

C. DEFEND

This should be your last option however you must be prepared to react to an active shooter before law enforcement arrive on scene.

1. Quietly discuss a plan with others in the room to respond if the shooter or violent person enters the room. If that happens, don't "duck for cover," which creates a partially exposed, passive target.
2. Position yourself next to the doorway out of view so that when the offender enters into the room you could surprise them.
3. Once committed to fight, then fight with everything that you have. There is no such thing as a clean or fair fight when you are fighting for your life. Nearly everything in a room could be used as a weapon (fire extinguisher, chair, etc.)
4. Do whatever it takes to survive.

D. LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVAL ON SCENE

1. Initial response of law enforcement is NOT to evacuate or treat any victims. Their primary goal is to stop the suspect from injuring anyone else.
2. Remain calm and follow any instructions that you are given.
3. Keep your hands visible at all times.
4. Avoid pointing or yelling.
5. Know that help for the injured is on its way.