

Practical Response to Active Shooters

Purpose of Training:

- Primary objective is to SURVIVE
- Developing a Survivor Mindset
- Practical Responses to Threats

Perspective:

- Often think only of an active shooter
- Expand our definition to include any on-going threat to life
 - Knife / edged weapon
 - Club or baseball bat / bludgeon
 - Any weapon that may cause great bodily harm or death
- You have the right to defend yourself and others from threats of death or great bodily harm

Survivor Mindset:

- Mentally Prepare – Think ahead
- Ask “what if”
- Make a Plan – specific to your environment
- Positive Visualization
 - Always visualize yourself winning

Situational Control

- The attacker controls time, location, and method of attack.
- What we can control:
 - We can deny the attacker victims
 - We can harden ourselves as a target
 - We can decide whether or not we fight back
 - We can disrupt the attacker's plan

Practical Responses:

- Evacuation
- Shelter-in-Place/Lockdown
- Prepare to fight back
- Fight back
- What to do when police arrive

Evacuation:

- Always move away from the sound of gunfire
- Assume it is gunfire : react
- Do not wait or assume it was nothing
- Do not waste time. Get away from the building or area where the shooting is occurring
- If you are confronted with attacker, act
 - Do something
- Notify the police

Shelter-in-Place/Lockdown:

- Lock the door if possible
- Barricade with room contents and seek cover
- Attackers have a limited time and are looking for easy targets
- Look for Cover
 - Concealment: Hides you from a person
 - Cover: May hide you from a person and provides protection from bullet penetration

Shelter-in-Place cont.

- Direct others to move to a spot in the room that cannot be viewed through the doorway
- Try not to bunch together too closely
- Turn off the lights
- Notify police if able, local police may be overwhelmed with calls but keep trying

Prepare to fight back:

- Ordinary items that can be used as weapons
 - Books, stapler, chair, fire extinguisher, pencil, keyboard, keys
- Create a plan of attack
 - Ask for volunteers
 - Assign tasks



Fight Back to Escape

- Throw items at the attacker to distract
- Push past or strike at the attacker
- Run away from the attacker
- Escape away from the danger zone
- Don't stop

Fight back:

- Throw items at the attacker, attempting to distract
- Immediately follow up with an attack
- Make every attempt to control the barrel of the weapon – point it toward the ground
- Attack quickly and violently – 100 percent force
- Attack his eyes, throat, nose, groin, head

Fight back cont.

- You are in a fight for your LIFE !!!!
- Hang onto the attacker
 - Overwhelm him with people
 - Remove the weapon and place in opposite corner if possible
 - Place weapon on floor and have someone stand on or near weapon

Police arrival:

- Police will announce their presence and will usually be in a group
- Show your hands – hands hold weapons
- Never run toward police or yell at them
- One person speaks for group
- Listen to their commands
 - Evacuate at police request
 - Stay in place

Police arrival cont.

- If you have taken control of the attacker
 - Hold on to him or her even after the police enter the room
 - Everyone else should place their hands in the air with palms facing out
 - One person should explain the situation to the police
- Do **NOT** hold the weapon when police arrive



Summary:

- Survival Mindset – develop plans
- Evacuate / Escape
- Shelter-in-Place / Lockdown / Barricade
- Fight Back to Escape
- Police Arrival Process
- SURVIVE

Questions?