



# How to Respond in An

# ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT

An “active shooter” is an individual who is engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. The event is random, unpredictable and evolves quickly. But knowing what to do can save lives.

## AVOID - DENY - DEFEND

### Avoid —

- ◆ Know your surroundings—have an escape route and plan in mind
- ◆ Run immediately –leave your belongings behind
- ◆ Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow. Help others escape if possible
- ◆ Do not attempt to move the wounded
- ◆ Prevent others from entering area where the active shooter may be
- ◆ CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

### Deny —

- ◆ If you cannot escape, hide in an area out of the shooter’s view. Lock the door and/or block the entry to your hiding place. If possible/safe use secondary exits such as a window.
- ◆ Silence cell phone (including the vibrate mode) and remain quiet
- ◆ Lay flat—Take cover behind furniture or fixtures away form doors or windows

### Defend —

- ◆ Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. Use items around you as weapons to fight
- ◆ Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- ◆ Commit to your actions... your life depends on it.

### Information to Provide to Police —

- ◆ Number of active shooters and their location along with a physical description
- ◆ Number and type of weapons used
- ◆ Number of potential victims

### When Law Enforcement Arrives —

- ◆ Remain calm and follow instructions
- ◆ Put down anything in your hands.
- ◆ Raise hands and spread fingers
- ◆ Avoid quick movements toward officers or grabbing officers
- ◆ If asked, give locations & descriptions.
- ◆ Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling



The first officers to arrive on scene will not stop to help the injured during an active event. Their primary focus is the capture or neutralization of the shooter(s) as soon as possible. Expect rescue teams to follow initial officers who will then extract victims to a safe location.