



# VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICE

## Community NewsLetter



### PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims.

Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.



This newsletter provides guidance to individuals, including managers and employees, who may be caught in an active shooter situation, and discusses how to react when law enforcement responds.

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that customers and clients are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter situation.



# Security Tips



## If there are reports of an active shooter on your facility (not inside your building):

- >If it is possible to escape the building and facility safely and avoid danger, do so by the nearest exit.
- >These situations are incident specific. Each individual and department will have to make a decision based on the available information (your location, location of the incident, etc.).

## If you hear shots fired: Get Out!

- Move quickly - do not wait for others to validate your decision.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Survival chances increase if you are not where the shooter is or if you go where the shooter can't see you.



## Call Out!

- >Once you are in a safe location, call the Police by dialing 911 or call your local facility Police Department if available.
- >Advise others in the immediate area to stay away from the shooter's location.
- >If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen



## Keep Out!

- Try to find a room that can be locked - if the room can't be locked try to barricade or block the door with heavy furniture or other heavy objects.
- Turn out the lights and all noise-producing devices.
- Try to stay silent.
- Call the police if you can do so without alerting the shooter.

## Spread Out!

- If there are two or more of you, do not huddle together. Spreading out gives you more options and makes it harder for the shooter.
- Quietly develop a plan of action in the event the shooter enters your room.
- Remain calm. This can have a contagious" effect on others.
- Stay focused on survival. Keep others focused.



## Hide Out!

- >If you can't get out because the shooter is between you and the only exit then hide out.
- >Move out of the hallway and look for a well hidden and well protected room.
- >Avoid places that might trap or restrict your movement.

# Security Tips

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES



### The first officers to arrive to the scene:

- \* will not stop to help injured persons.
- \* Expect rescue teams comprised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to follow the initial officers.
- \* These rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons.
- \* They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises.
- \* Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control, and all witnesses have been identified and questioned.
- \* Do not leave the safe location or assembly point until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.

### How to react when law enforcement arrives:

- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as attempting to hold on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

### Information to provide to law enforcement or 911 operator:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter/s
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s
- Number of potential victims at the location

### Law enforcement's purpose is :

to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.

- Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4)
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- Officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their safety

