



Fort A.P. Hill Guidance to Soldiers, Residents and Employees

How to Survive an Active Shooter



How you respond to an active shooter will be dictated by the specific circumstances of the encounter, bearing in mind there could be more than one shooter involved in the same situation. If you find yourself involved in an active shooter situation, try to remain calm and use these guidelines to help you plan a strategy for survival.

HAVE A PLAN!!

“Within the span of 16 minutes, the gunman killed 13 people and wounded 21 others. A savage act of domestic terrorism, their crime is the deadliest school shooting in the history of the United States”

**Sheriff John P. Stone
Jefferson Co. Colorado**

11:57:20-63 AM 04/20/99

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold caught on the high school's security cameras in the cafeteria shortly before committing suicide.

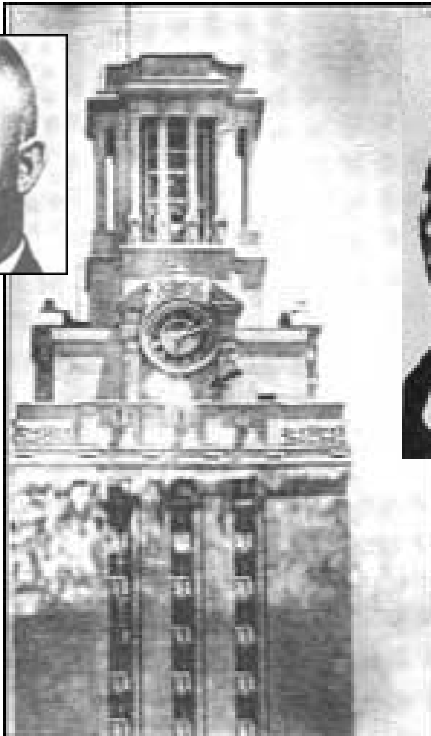
Active Shooter Incidents

What is a active shooter? Unlike a barricaded suspect who tends to stay in a known and confined area, a active shooter is on the move, difficult to isolate, his precise location may be unknown, and there is immediate risk of death or serious injury to potential victims. Since the middle of the last century, their have been thousand's of active shooter incidents in the United States and abroad. In the public school's, their have been over one hundred student on student shootings. One of the earliest active shooter school incidents occurred at the University of Texas on August 1, 1966 when student Charles Whitman shot and killed fifteen, and wounded 31 from a school tower in the center of the campus.

On July 18, 1984, a 41 year old unemployed security guard named James Huberty walked into a McDonald's in San Diego and killed 21 people and wounded 19. The suspect was killed by a police sniper. During the North Hollywood Bank Robbery Incident on February 27, 1997, two gunmen wounded 13 people before one was shot and wounded and the other took his own life.



Charles Whitman



James Huberty

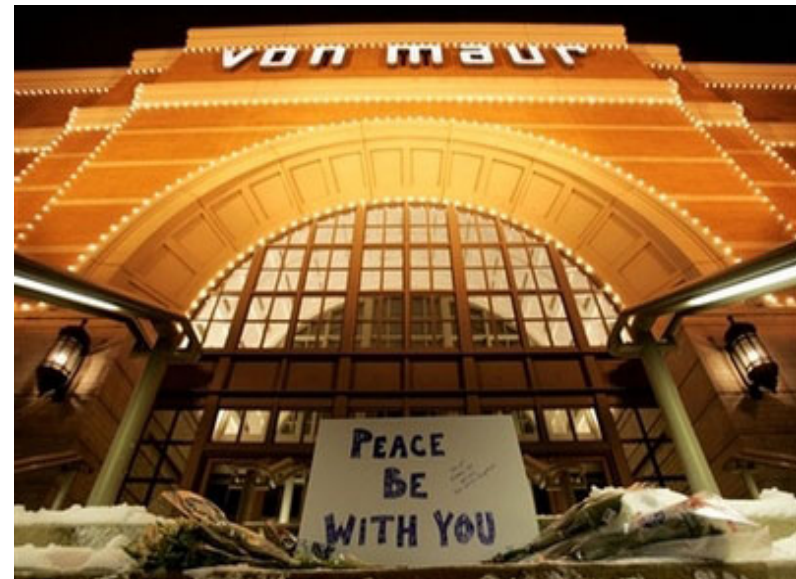


North Hollywood bank robbers
Larry Phillips and Emil Matasareanu



Westroads Mall shooting:

A murder-suicide that occurred on 5 December 2007, at the Von Maur department store in the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Nebraska. Nineteen-year-old Robert A. Hawkins killed nine people (including himself) and wounded four, two of them critically.



Lancaster County, PA Amish School Murders:



On the morning of Monday, 2 October 2006, a gunman took hostages and eventually killed five girls (aged 6-13) and then committed suicide at West Nickel Mines School, a one-roomed schoolhouse in the Old Order Amish community in Lancaster County, PA. Police report that the gunman was Charles Carl Roberts, IV a 32-year-old milk-tank truck driver who lived nearby.

Edmond, Oklahoma in 1986:



USPS letter carrier Patrick H. Sherrill, a “disgruntled postal worker” fit the profile of a potential mass killer. A loner and socially inept, he was unable to hold a job for long and blamed management for his problems. His fascination with guns was fed by service in the U.S. Marines and active participation in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, where he became a small arms expert.

Frustrated at being formally disciplined by his postal supervisor several times, Sherrill had on two occasions threatened revenge. After receiving a reprimand on August 19, he reported to work on the morning of August 20 armed with three semiautomatic pistols and ammunition. He entered the facility, shot his supervisor to death, and tracked his co-workers through the building, killing fourteen and wounding six. He then killed himself

Goleta, California January 2006:



Just after 9 p.m. on Jan. 30, 2006, Jennifer San Marco passed through a heavily guarded security station in a mail processing plant and distribution center in Goleta, Calif., by driving behind another vehicle to enter the building where she had worked two years earlier. No one realized that she had just killed her former neighbor, Beverly Graham, with a shot to the head in her apartment. They apparently also did not realize that she was armed with a 15-round, 9mm Smith & Wesson pistol and ammunition.

At gunpoint, San Marco took an employee's badge, according to early news reports. The 44-year-old then shot two people in the parking lot before entering the building to shoot four more before she turned the gun on herself, taking her own life. Five died at the location from their wounds and the sixth person died two days later in the hospital. Since San Marco had left behind no suicide note, her motives remain in question.



VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS: FIVE PAGES OF SPECIAL COVERAGE INSIDE. A2-AG

The News & Advance

Lynchburg, Virginia www.advantage.com Tuesday, April 17, 2007 Vol. 142



Injured occupants are carried out of Norris Hall at Virginia Tech on Monday after 32 people, including students, were killed.



BULLETIN
NBC RECEIVES PACKAGE FROM VIRGINIA TECH KILLER
MSNBC

Tech horror

NATION IN SHOCK OVER RAMPAGE AT VIRGINIA TECH

When shooting ended, 33 dead and other lives changed forever

Area parents, students try to absorb day's tragic events

Steve Mada General and Associated Press reports

BLACKSBURG — An investigation into the possibility that two gunmen were involved, with students trying to figure out how the mass of the 32 people killed and 15 wounded at Virginia Tech Monday in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

One of the victims and family were killed in Norris Hall, a building that houses engineering, business and laboratories. The killing had shocked what an institution-based number of those. "I just wish we could just stand this day over," said Brian Hunt, the brother of Tech graduate Jack Hunt.

"Thirty-two people are going to get the news that their child and loved one is dead."

"There are a lot of kids wanting to get away from school."

Frederick Lakota Fulk, a graduate of Tech's Liberty University, was riding on the second floor of West 100 when the shooting broke out. He said he saw the gunman in the hallway and ran to the stairs. "I saw the gunman in the hallway and ran to the stairs. I saw the gunman in the hallway and ran to the stairs."

Photo: www.RAMPAGE Page A2

Area colleges share the pain

► With sympathy at Virginia Tech today is mirrored following the tragedy. Lynchburg area colleges had thousands of students and faculty in mourning and holding a moment of silence. Page A5

Direct from Tech, media maintains

► After the shooting, pages on news organization were held closer to the story than the rest of the Virginia News. Page A4

Local athletes tell the story

► Local athletes tell the story in competition, but not one who will be ready at all. Page C1



Sharia Beeson, 18, a Tech freshman and Liberty Christian Academy grad who lives on the second floor of West 100, hugs her father Phil Beeson when they reunite after the school shooting at Virginia Tech on Monday. More about the students, including Beeson, on Page A5.

By Anthony Falter and David McCallum The Star-News

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By mail-ordering, theater-going... (text partially obscured)

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Virginia Tech shootings

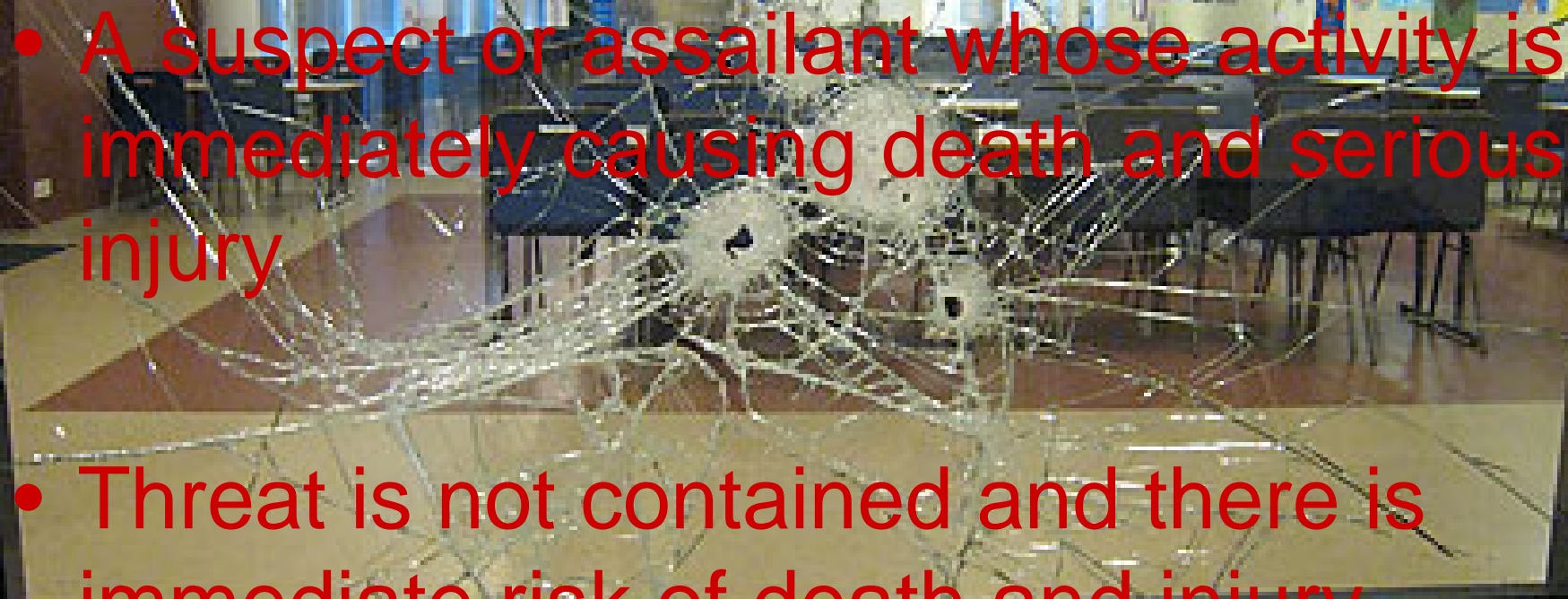


CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THE VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS AT NEWSADVANCE.COM

Training Objectives

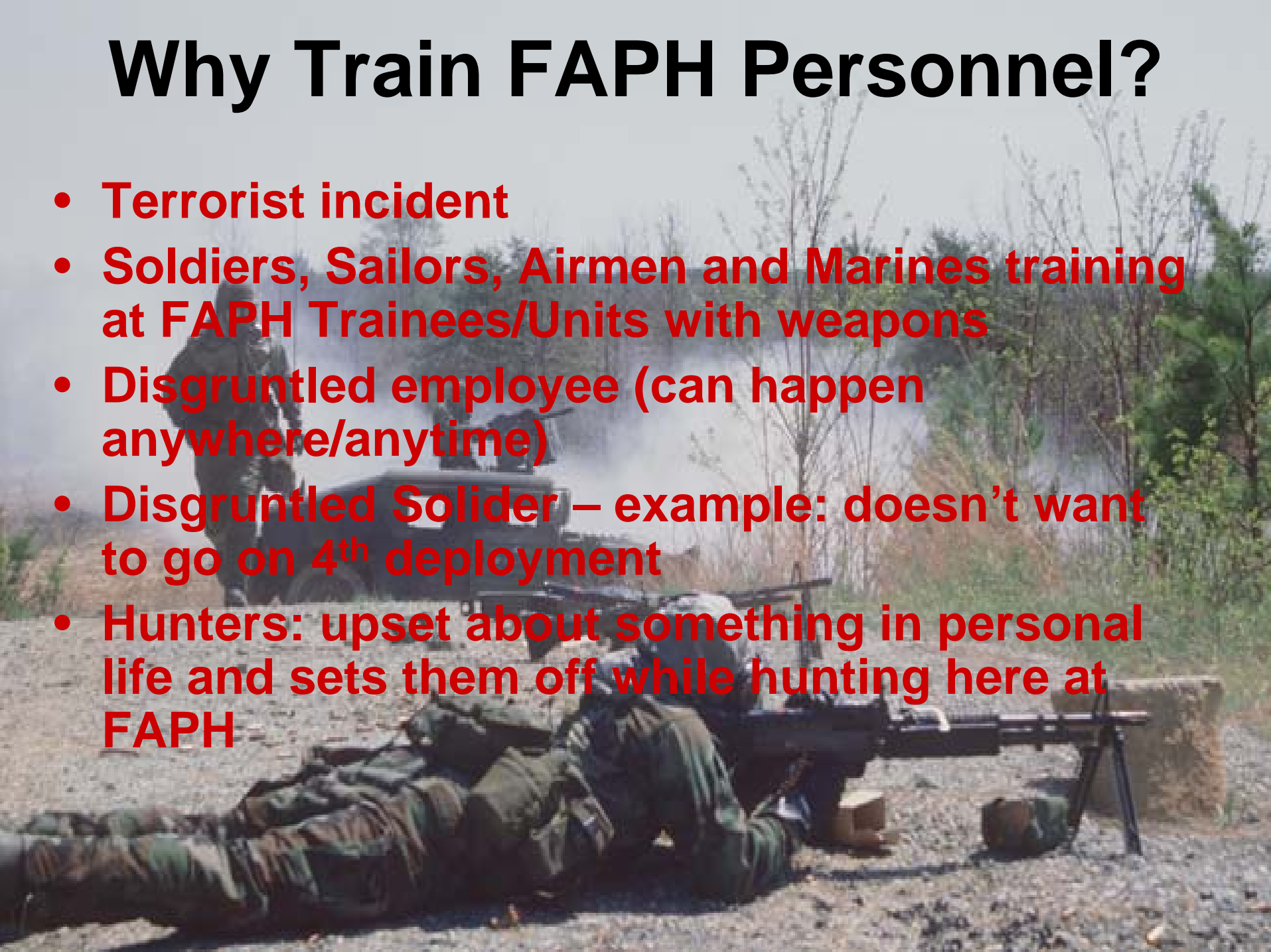
- Define the term “active shooter”
- List measures that can be employed to reduce the effectiveness of an active shooter
- Describe actions that can be expected from responding law enforcement officers

The Active Shooter defined

- 
- A suspect or assailant whose activity is immediately causing death and serious injury
 - Threat is not contained and there is immediate risk of death and injury

Why Train FAPH Personnel?

- Terrorist incident
- Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines training at FAPH Trainees/Units with weapons
- Disgruntled employee (can happen anywhere/anytime)
- Disgruntled Soldier – example: doesn't want to go on 4th deployment
- Hunters: upset about something in personal life and sets them off while hunting here at FAPH



Active Shooter

- Incidents of targeted violence at schools/place of work rarely were sudden, impulsive acts
- Most Attackers had no history of prior violent or criminal behavior
- Considered the greatest terrorist threat on school campuses



Mentality of Active Shooter

- Desire is to kill and seriously injure without concern for his safety or threat of capture
- Normally has intended victims and will search them out
- Accepts targets of opportunity while searching for or after finding intended victims
- Will continue to move throughout building/area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention

Your Response

If an Active Shooter is Outside your Building:



- **Proceed to a room that can be locked, close and lock all windows and doors, turn off all lights.**
- **Get everyone down on the floor and ensure no one is visible from outside the room.**
- **One person in room calls 911, advise of incident and your location, remain in place until police or a familiar person arrives and gives the all clear.**
- **Unfamiliar voices may be the shooter attempting to lure victims from their safe space.**
- **Do not respond to any voice commands until you can verify with certainty.**

Your Response

If an Active Shooter Enters your Office:

- **Secure the immediate area – whether classroom, bathroom, or office; close and lock all windows and doors, turn off all lights. This may require advanced planning to ensure ability to lock the door – key and type of lock.**
- **Block the door using whatever is available - desks, file cabinets, books, other furniture...**
- **Get everyone down on the floor and ensure no one is visible from outside the room.**
- **One person in room calls 911, advise of incident and your location, remain in place until police or a familiar person arrives and gives the all clear.**
- **Unfamiliar voices may be the shooter attempting to lure victims from their safe space.**
- **Do not respond to any voice commands until you can verify with certainty.**
- **If your room can't be locked, determine if there is a nearby location that can be reached safely and securely; If safe allow others to seek refuge with you**



Your Response

- Treat the injured
 - Remember basic first aid
 - For bleeding apply pressure and elevate
 - Be creative in identifying items to use for this purpose - clothing, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, news papers, etc.



Your Response

Un-securing an area:

- The shooter will not stop until his objectives have been met, unless engaged by law enforcement
- Consider the risk exposure created by opening the door
- Attempts to rescue people should only be made if that can be done without further endangering the persons inside a secured area.
- The shooter may bang on the door and yell for help to entice you to open the door

**Remember the safety of the masses
versus the safety of a few**

If there is any doubt to the safety of the individuals inside the room, the area needs to **remain secured**



Your Response

- **Doors, Windows, Openings, and Noise**
 - Close blinds
 - Block windows
 - Turn off radios and computer monitors if necessary
 - Silence cell phones
 - Signs can be placed in interior doors, windows, but remember the shooter can see these
 - Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons
 - Keep occupants calm and quiet
 - After securing the room. People should be positioned out of sight and behind items that might offer additional protection - walls, desks, file cabinets, etc.

Unsecured/open areas

- If you find yourself in an open area, immediately seek protection
- Put something between you and the shooter
- Is escape your best option? Do you know where the shooter is? Is escape immediately available?
- If in doubt find a safe area and secure it the best way you can



Contacting Emergency Personnel

- x8911 from on post telephone (Fort A.P. Hill Police)
- (804) 633-8911 (Fort A.P. Hill Police)
- Emergency 911
 - 911 may be overwhelmed
 - busy signal
 - multiple rings



What to Report

- Your specific location
 - Building name
 - Office/classroom number
- Number of people at your specific location
- Injuries
 - Number of people injured
 - Types of injuries
 - Dispatcher may provide instructions on how to care for injured until medical assistance can be provided

What to Report

– Assailant(s)

- Specific location
- Number of assailant(s)
- Race and Gender
- Clothing color and style
- Physical features – height, weight, facial hair, glasses
- Type of weapons (rifle/shotgun, handgun)
- Backpack
- Do you recognize the shooter? What's his name?
- Have you heard explosions separate from gunshots?

Law Enforcement Response

- Law enforcement will immediately respond to the area



It is important for you to convey to others that help is on the way. Remain inside the secure area.

Law enforcement's goal is to locate, contain, and stop the shooter

The safest place for you to be is inside a secure room

The shooter will not flee when law enforcement enters the building, instead he will have new targets to shoot

Remember the shooter's mindset is not escape. His goal is to kill and injure

Law Enforcement Response

- Injured persons
 - Initial responding officers will not treat the injured or begin evacuation until the threat is neutralized
 - You may need to explain this to others in an attempt to calm them
 - Once the shooter is contained, officers will begin treatment and evacuation
- Evacuation
 - Safety corridors will be established. This may be time consuming
 - Remain in secure areas until instructed otherwise
 - You may be instructed to keep your hands on your head
 - You may be searched
 - You will be escorted out of the building by law enforcement personnel



The Investigation

- Information will be released to FAPH community and media as quickly as possible
- The entire area will be treated as a crime scene
- Once you have been evacuated you will not be permitted to retrieve items or access the crime scene
- After evacuation you will be taken to a holding area for medical care, interviewing, counseling, etc.



Summary

- Active Shooter
- You should take a leadership role
- Seek secure area
- Calm, reassure, and quiet others
- Report the incident
- Treat injured
- Law enforcement response
 - Objective is to neutralize threat
 - Evacuation
 - Follow up medical care, interview, counseling
 - Investigation



Closing Statement

- We can no longer predict the origin of the next threat
- Assailants in some recent incidents across the country were not students or employees
- There are not always obvious or specific targets and victims are unaware they're targets, until attacked

What Else Can You Do?

- ***Practice Your Common Senses***
- Contribute to a Culture of Safety
- Vigilance – Use awareness to protect your personal boundaries; Create prevention through vigilance.
- Avoidance – Know how to identify a high-risk situation or environment and avoid it.
- Escape – Know when and how to get away from a threatening situation.



Take Yourself Off of Automatic

How many times have we all been told that a critical component of our safety is awareness? The reason is because, it's true. Being alert and present in any given situation is essential when it comes to protecting ourselves. In fact, many would argue that it is half the battle in any threatening situation. Unfortunately, despite the fact that we know this, we are so caught up in day-to-day distractions that more often than not, we fail to maintain a critical level of awareness.

Practice Your Common Senses

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