

Active Shooter

It is an unfortunate reality that we must even consider this possibility. Pre-planning for such an incident will be your best chance for surviving an active shooter incident. Be aware of your escape routes, know how you will respond, and be prepared to take action to fight the intruder as a last resort.

Best practices for dealing with an active shooter situation include:

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Identify the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- Assess your situation-If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- Assess your situation-If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
- Take action- as a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.

WSU teaches a Run, Hide, Fight protocol in the event of an active shooter situation. Should you find yourself in this situation, you alone must assess and determine which option will provide the greatest degree of security.

Alert, Assess, Act: If you become aware of an active shooter threat, assess your situation and choose the best action:

RUN: Evacuate If Possible

- Quickly assess your personal situation.
- If there is considerable distance between you and the armed person, quickly move away from the sound of the gunfire/armed person. If the intruder is in your building and it is safe to do so, run out of the building and move far away until you are in a secure place to hide.
- Help others escape if possible, but do not stay behind if others will not go.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible to law enforcement.
- Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Do not assume that someone else has reported the incident.

HIDE: Hide silently in as safe a place as possible

- Quickly assess your personal situation.
- If the shooter is in close proximity and you cannot evacuate safely, hide in an area out of the intruder's view.
- Choose a hiding place with thicker walls and fewer windows, if possible.
- Lock doors and barricade with furniture, if possible.

- Turn off lights. Close windows, shades and blinds, and avoid being seen from outside the room, if possible.
- Silence phones and turn off other electronics. Remain very quiet.
- If you are outdoors and cannot run safely, find a place to hide that will provide protection from gunfire such as a brick wall, large trees or buildings.
- Call 9-1-1 as soon as safely possible.

FIGHT: Take action to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter

- Quickly assess your personal situation.
- As a last resort, take action. If you cannot evacuate or hide safely, and **only** when your life is in imminent danger, take action.
- Attempt to incapacitate or disrupt the actions of the shooter. Commit to your actions.
- Act with physical aggression toward the shooter.
- Improvise weapons by using items in your area such as fire extinguishers or chairs. Throwing items at the shooter may be an option.
- Call 911 when it is safe to do so.

Immediately after an incident:

- Wait for Local Law Enforcement officers to assist you out of the building, if inside.
- When law enforcement arrives, students and employees must display empty hands with open palms.
- The first arriving officers will not stop to assist the injured or to evacuate personnel.

Run. Hide. Fight

The guidelines above are based on the best available information. Local Law enforcement recommends that you assess your individual situation and the options provided so you can make the best decisions for yourself in an active shooter situation. WSU encourages students, faculty and staff to be personally aware of developing incidents, to assess each emergency individually, and act to ensure their own safety.