Active Shooter Response
Important Considerations

It can happen here.
You must be prepared.

RUN ➔ HIDE ➔ FIGHT
SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT
Course Objectives

- Define the term “active shooter” and provide characteristics common to these events.
- Establish community members’ roles in detecting and preventing active shooter threats.
- Illustrate bystanders’ and victims’ best-practice responses and survival strategies.
Part I: Definition and Characteristics
“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.“

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FBI Data

U.S. active-shooter incidents, 2000-2013

160 incidents occurred between 2000 and 2013

An average of 11.4 incidents occurred annually, with an increasing trend from 2000 to 2013.

1,043 Casualties, including killed and wounded (shooters were not included in this total)

486 were killed in 160 incidents

557 were wounded in 160 incidents.

Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014
Locations of Active Shooter Events

A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013: Location Categories

- **EDUCATION**
  - Schools (Pre-K to 12), 16.9% (27)
  - Institutions of Higher Education, 7.5% (12)
- **GOVERNMENT**
  - Other Government Properties, 6.9% (11)
  - Military, 3.1% (5)
- **OPEN SPACE**
  - 9.4% (15)
- **RESIDENCES**
  - 4.4% (7)
- **HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**
  - 2.5% (4)
- **HOUSES OF WORSHIP**
  - 3.8% (6)
- **COMMERCE**
  - Businesses, Open to pedestrian traffic, 27.5% (44)
  - Malls, 3.8% (6)
  - Businesses, Closed to pedestrian traffic, 14.4% (23)

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014
Incidence on the Rise

A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013: Incidents Annually

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014
Recent Incidents: 2014-2015

- Forty incidents occurred, involving 42 shooters (39 males & 3 females) and resulting in 231 casualties.
- Commerce and schools are the most affected locations.
- Sixteen shooters (38.1%) committed suicide, 14 were (33.3%) killed by law enforcement and 12 (28.6%) were apprehended.

Active shooters are a growing & pervasive problem in our society!
Who commits these acts?

- Men/women/youths
- Employees/students
- Former employees/former students
- Contractors/vendors
- Customers/patients/patients’ families
- Random people

In 97% of the cases analyzed, the shooter was a male and acted alone.
Relationship Between Attacker and Victims
Conclusions

- In incidents with known time frames, 70% ended in five minutes or less.

- At least 66.9% of incidents ended before police arrived and were able to engage the shooter.

- In 21 incidents (13.1%), unarmed citizens safely and successfully restrained the shooter.

Preparation and training are the keys to survival!
Part II: Your Role in Detection and Prevention
What are their motives?

- Disgruntled employee (ABB in St. Louis)
- Divorce or domestic custody issues (San Bernardino 2017)
- Delusional/mental illness (Sandy Hook, Navy Yard)
- Political, religious, or societal views (Ft. Hood, Kirkwood, Orlando)
- Bullying (Columbine)
- Humiliation/rejection (Virginia Tech, Santa Barbara)
- Terrorism (San Bernardino 2015)
What are the behavioral indicators?

- Increased use of drugs or alcohol
- Increased talk or purchase of firearms or other weapons
- Increased talk of problems at home work
- Repeated violations of work policies and severe mood swings
- Empathy with individuals who have committed violence
What is your role?

- Listen for indicators in other’s speech.
- Watch for indicators in other’s
  - emails
  - social media posts
  - behaviors
If you see something, say something.

Questionable behaviors may indicate attack planning. Notify law enforcement immediately. You may save lives.
Columbine High School 1999

“When I first saw the web pages, I was utterly blown away. He’s not saying that he’s gonna beat me up. He’s saying he wants to blow me up, and he’s talking about how he’s making the pipe bombs to do it with.”

- Columbine High School Student
“Numerous incidents occurred that were clear warnings of mental instability.”
- Virginia Tech Review Panel

“In 1999, a month following the murders at Columbine High School, Cho wrote a disturbing paper in English class indicating that he wanted to ‘repeat’ the shooting.”
- Seung-Hui Cho’s Therapist
San Bernardino 2015

Federal law enforcement officials said [Tashfeen Malik] posted messages on Facebook in 2012 and 2014 “Pledging her support for Islamic jihad and saying she hoped to join the fight one day.” - Los Angeles Times

Rizwan Farook’s and Malik’s pledges of jihad would be the latest indication that the public, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies missed clues on social media showing that they were a potential threat. - FBI

Spoke of martyrdom and jihad as early as 2013. - FBI
Why do we fail to warn/report?

- Fear of becoming a target
- Afraid of retaliation
- Do not wish to wrongfully accuse
- Prefer to “stay out of it”
- Preconceived feelings about the person
- Overlooked the gradual progression of behavior
Who should you tell?

If you see indicators and believe an attack might be imminent, report that information to the emergency contact number for your location:

- School of Medicine – Protective Services: (314) 362-4357
- Barnes-Jewish Hospital - Public Safety: (314) 362-0911
- Danforth Campus – WUPD: (314) 935-5555
- Off Campus, North/West/South Campus & Tyson Research – Local Police: (911)

Program these numbers into your phone!
Additional Reporting Options

If you do not believe an attack is imminent but observe suspicious behavior, notify law enforcement or report the matter to your:

- Supervisor or manager
- Human Resources: www.hr.wustl.edu
- Employee Assistance Program: www.hr.wustl.edu
- Student Health Services (if a student is involved): www.shs.wustl.edu
- Student/Employee Health Service: www.wustmhealth.wustl.edu
Part III
Responses and Survival Strategies
Adopt a Survival Mindset

- Awareness and preparation will give you the edge that you need.
- Develop plans before emergencies occur.
- Train your brain and your body.

I will do what it takes to get home to my family!
Cover versus Concealment

Cover – Physical barrier between you and shooter that will slow or stop a bullet:
- Door
- Vehicle
- Structural pillar
- Dense Furniture

Concealment – Only hides you from shooter’s view:
-Bushes
- Curtain
Trust Yourself & Know Your Options

In an active shooter emergency, trust your instincts. You must take responsibility for your own safety and survival.

What are your options?

**RUN**: Can you safely escape from the threat?

**HIDE**: Are there any good places to hide nearby?

**FIGHT**: Are you prepared to defend yourself?

**REPORT**: Contact law enforcement when you can do so without increasing risk to yourself.
RUN, HIDE, FIGHT!

How close is the shooter? How safe are you in your current position?

Your decision to **RUN, HIDE** or **FIGHT** must be based on your analysis of the situation. You possess the best real-time intelligence for your location and of your capabilities!
RUN, HIDE, FIGHT!

- Your options to **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT** need not be pursued in this order. You might employ one or all of these responses.

- The circumstances should dictate your responses. You must act!

- **REPORT** to law enforcement only when doing so will not further endanger you.
RUN!

Why evacuate the area?

- Achieve distance. **Distance equals safety!**
- You cannot become a victim if you do not cross paths with the shooter.
- Law enforcement’s response will be faster and easier without innocent bystanders present.
RUN!

You may choose to run if you:

• Possess accurate and current knowledge of the shooter’s location.
• Are confident you can safely escape.
• Have planned an escape route.
• Employ cover and concealment.
If you decide to **RUN**, remember...

- Leave all belongings behind.
- Warn others as you escape.
- Try to take others with you, but do not let others slow you down.
- Do not stop until you are safely away from the area of the threat.
- Once you feel safe, call law enforcement and **REPORT**.
- If you have no phone, use campus emergency intercoms.
HIDE!

When should you hide?

- if you do not know the shooter’s location
- if the shooter is blocking your escape route
- if you are physically unable to run/flee
HIDE!

- Lock yourself in a room or closet.
- Barricade doors with heavy furniture.
- Wrap door closer arm/hinge.
- Close blinds or curtains.
- Hide behind large, dense objects.
- Turn off lights and remain quiet.
- Turn off or silence mobile phones and pagers.
Students sat on the floor and didn’t move, even when the killer was in another building.

Exploit such opportunities to **RUN** or **HIDE**!
Passive vs. Proactive
Lessons From Virginia Tech

28 Fatalities

- Room 206: 10 fatalities, 2 injured
- Room 211: 11 fatalities, 6 injured
- Room 207: 5 fatalities, 6 injured*

*(Barricaded after Cho entered and then left. They did not sustain additional fatalities after that.)

2 Fatalities

- Room 204: 2 fatalities, 3 injured (Barricaded door and jumped from a window)
- Room 205: 0 fatalities, 0 injured (Barricaded Door)
On February 14, Steven Kazmierczak, a former NIU student, began shooting in a lecture hall containing 120 students. Many students sought cover and concealment.

When Kazmierczak stopped to reload, someone yelled that the shooter was reloading. Some seized that opportunity and fled.

A total of 24 people were shot, five of whom died.

Kazmierczak took his own life as campus police arrived on the scene.
FIGHT!

When should you fight?

- if the shooter is too close for you to run or hide
- if your life is in immediate danger
FIGHT!

If your life is in immediate danger from an active shooter, **FIGHT** aggressively!

- There are no rules. Succeed by any means possible!
- Yell and scream!
- Use whatever you can find!
  - Books
  - Chairs
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Full cans/bottles
  - Heavy objects
  - Scissors

- Do not stop until the shooter is down, disarmed and unable to continue.
Kirkwood 2008

- Charles Lee “Cookie” Thornton shot and killed one police officer outside City Hall before entering the council chambers and shooting another police officer, the director of public works, two council members, the mayor and a reporter.

- The city attorney began throwing chairs at Thornton. That activity drew Thornton’s attention away from his own actions until police officers responded to the scene and killed Thornton. The city attorney likely saved his own life and others present that night.
REPORT!

At any time during an active shooter event **when safe to do so**, report to law enforcement.

Timely and accurate reporting might save your life and the lives of others.
REPORT!

Call the emergency number for your area:

- **School of Medicine Campus:** Call Protective Services at 314-362-4357
- **BJH/SLCH:** Call Barnes Public Safety at 314-362-0911, then call Protective Services
- **Danforth Campus:** Call WUPD at 314-935-5555
- **Other Campuses or Off Campus:** Call 911 and then WUPD at 314-935-5555
What should you tell the police?

- Location of the shooter(s)
- Description of the shooter(s)
- Type of weapon(s): Rifle, pistol, knife?
- Provide clear, accurate information as quickly and safely as possible.
- Do not hang up unless directed by the dispatcher, or it becomes too unsafe to remain on the line.
Help Arrives: Police Response

Your Role:

- The first police on the scene are there to subdue the shooter, not aid the wounded. Do not try to stop them!
- Empty your hands, raise them up over your head, and spread your fingers!
- Avoid any quick movements that could be interpreted as threatening!
- Remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions.
Active Shooter Exercise

Six volunteers for participation in light activity
WashUAlerts

Emergency Notification

- WashUAlerts is the university’s mass notification system for alerting faculty, staff, students, and campus visitors of an emergency situation.

- The system utilizes a multi-mode approach with several avenues for providing alert messages.

- Be sure that your contact information is updated in HRMS.
Methods of Notification

Alerts could potentially come via a combination of:

- Email message
- Phone/voice message
- SMS/Text message
- Alertus beacons
- Desktop pop-ups
- Fire Alarm System
- WUSTL APP
What To Expect

If a credible threat is received, a WashUAlert may be transmitted:

“A person with a weapon has been reported on the XYZ Campus. Go to a place where you feel safe and remain there until further notice. For additional updates go to emergency.wustl.edu.”
How will you respond?

If the threat is located on your campus, initiate **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT, REPORT** activities.

- Do you hear gun shots?
- Do you know the location of the shooter?
- What information do you have?

If the threat is on another campus, do not go there!
Department of Homeland Security

RUN > HIDE > FIGHT
SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT
Prepare & Prevent

- Foster a respectful workplace
- Watch for workplace violence behavioral indicators
- Know and practice at least two evacuation routes
- Review Active Shooter Response training regularly
- Use Employee Assistance Program if needed
Homework

- Where can I run? Identify all evacuation routes from areas in your daily routine.
- Where can I hide? Identify areas around you where you can be safer from an active shooter.
- What if I have to fight? Think of ways to protect yourself if an active shooter was in your area.
- Develop a *Survival Mindset*! I can do this! I will go home to my family!

Stay alert, stay alive.
Three Key Points

- It can happen anywhere at anytime.

- If you see something, say something.

- RUN, HIDE, FIGHT, REPORT!
Additional Resources

- http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness
- https://training.fema.gov/
  - IS – 906 (Workplace violence)
  - IS – 907 (Active Shooter)
- http://emergency.wustl.edu
Questions?
Contact Information

Emergency Management
washuready@wustl.edu
314-747-5092

Washington University Police Department
314-935-5555

Protective Services (School of Medicine)
314-362-4357