EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Active Shooter Response

Washington University in St. Louis
Emergency Management
Objectives

• Define the term “active shooter” and provide characteristics common to these events.

• Establish your role in detecting and preventing active shooter threats.

• Illustrate bystanders’ and victims’ best-practice responses and survival strategies.

Develop A Survival Mindset!
What is an active shooter?

“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

*Ultimate goal is a high body count*
Common characteristics

• In 97% of the cases analyzed, the **shooter was a male and acted alone**.

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

• Shooters typically target **one general location**.

• They are **looking for easy targets** and usually don’t spend much time trying to breach a room.

*Think quick and act fast!*
Watch for red flags
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

Look for changes in behavior and trends over time.
What is your role?

- Listen for indicators in other’s **speech**.

- Watch for indicators in other’s:
  - **emails**
  - **social media posts**
  - **behaviors**
Who should you tell?

If you observe suspicious behavior report the matter to:

- Supervisor or manager
- Human Resources: www.hr.wustl.edu
- Employee Assistance Program: www.hr.wustl.edu
- Student/Employee Health Service: www.wusmhealth.wustl.edu
Know your options

If you see someone shooting, hear gunshots, or receive an alert indicating an active shooter is nearby, take immediate action:

**RUN**: Exit the building and evacuate the area. Notify others along the way.

**HIDE**: Find a safe and secure place. Lock and block the door. Stay calm and quiet.

**FIGHT**: As a last resort, if threatened by the shooter, fight for your life.

**REPORT**: When safe to do so, call the emergency number for your area.
Know your options
You must take responsibility for your own safety and survival.

Your decision to **RUN, HIDE or FIGHT** must be based on your analysis of the situation. When safe to do so **REPORT**!

You possess the best real-time intelligence for your location and of your capabilities!

*With the information that you have, choose the best option for you!*
RUN!

You may choose to run if you...

• know the shooter’s location.
• have planned an escape route.
• employ cover and concealment.

Achieve distance.  
Distance equals safety!
If you decide to RUN, remember...

- Leave all belongings behind.
- Warn others as you escape.
- Keep running until you reach safety.
- Once safe, call law enforcement and REPORT.
- Use campus emergency intercoms, if needed.

Always have your ID, phone, and keys with you!
HIDE!

You may choose to hide if...

• you do not know the shooter’s location.

• the shooter is blocking your escape route.

• you are physically unable to run/flee.

Achieve time. Help is on the way.
If you decide to **HIDE**, remember…

- **Lock** yourself in a room or closet and **block** the door with heavy furniture.
- Wrap door closer arm/hinge.
- Close blinds or curtains.
- Hide behind large, dense objects.
- Turn off lights and remain quiet, silence mobile phones and pagers.
FIGHT!

You may decide to fight if...

- the shooter is too close for you to run or hide.
- your life is in immediate danger.
If you decide to **FIGHT**, remember...

- Succeed by any means possible!

- Be aggressive - Yell and scream!

- Use whatever you can find!
  - Books & chairs
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Cans & bottles
  - Heavy objects

**Do not stop until the shooter is down, disarmed or unable to continue.**
Report

If you believe an attack is imminent, or one is ongoing, call the emergency number for your location:

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

Timely and accurate reporting can save lives!
Help Arrives: Police Response

• 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.
Notifications

• Multiple modes
  – WUSTL app, text message, phone call, desktop notification, Alertus beacon, etc.
  – Update contact information and download the WUSTL app.

• Detailed information and/or instructions may not be available immediately.

• Be sure your information is coming from reliable and credible sources.
  – University social media accounts
  – www.emergency.wustl.edu
Keys to Survival

• **Know your surroundings**
  – Pay attention; identify all evacuation routes, emergency exits, and places to hide.

• **Know your options**
  – Your decision to run, hide, or fight must be based on your analysis of the situation and of your capabilities.

• **Trust your instincts**
  – With the information that you have, and in your current location, choose the best option for you.

• **Take action**
  – “A good plan executed violently now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.” – George Patton
Additional Resources

Emergency Management

NO EMERGENCY

Emergency preparedness is a group effort that involves all members of the WashU community. To do your part:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Heat Advisory issued July 10 at 4:04AM CDT until July 12 at 9:00PM CDT by NWS

EMERGENCY INFO HOTLINE
314-935-9000
Out of Area: 888-234-2863

TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY

Danforth Campus
314-935-5555
School of Medicine Campus
314-362-4357
North/West/South Campus
9-911 then 314-935-5555
Off Campus
911 then 314-935-5555
Contact Information

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

Washington University Police Department
314-935-5555

Medical School Protective Services
314-362-4357