





Center for Personal Protection & Safety
Confidence starts here.


Law Enforcement Responders



Law Enforcement Responders

› Interacting with Law Enforcement Responders


- Do NOT expect officers to assist you as you get out
 - ◊ Primary job is to locate the shooter and neutralize the threat
 - ◊ Medical assistance will follow once the threat is neutralized
- Law Enforcement must assume everyone is a threat to their safety
 - ◊ Be prepared to:
 - ✓ have weapons pointed in your direction
 - ✓ be subject to search
 - ✓ be handcuffed



Law Enforcement Responders

› Interacting with Law Enforcement Responders (Cont'd)

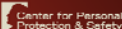
- When Law Enforcement officers enter the room, do not present a threat to them
 - ◊ Do NOT
 - ✓ Point at them or the shooter
 - ✓ Make quick movements
 - ✓ Run towards them or attempt to hug them
 - ✓ Scream or yell



Law Enforcement Responders

› Interacting with Law Enforcement Responders (Cont'd)

- ◊ Do NOT
 - ✓ Have anything in your hands; officers are taught that "hands kill"
- ◊ DO
 - ✓ Raise your arms
 - ✓ Spread your fingers
 - ✓ Show hands as you drop to the floor
 - ✓ Spread arms and legs




Law Enforcement Responders

› Key Information

- Be prepared to calmly, quickly, and accurately provide:
 - ◊ Name of shooter (if known)
 - ◊ Number of shooters
 - ◊ Description of shooter
 - ◊ Location of shooter
 - ◊ Number and types of weapons carried by shooter



Distinctions Between an Active Shooter and a Hostage-Taker



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Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

➤ Overview

- Distinctions between an Active Shooter and a Hostage-Taker
- How to assist Law Enforcement responders
- Key information needed by Law Enforcement responders

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Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

➤ Require different behavioral responses


➤ Active Shooter

- An armed individual who has used deadly force and continues to do so with unrestricted access
- Can involve
 - ◊ Single shooters, multiple shooters
 - ◊ Close encounters, distant encounters
 - ◊ Targeted students, random victims
 - ◊ Single-room confrontations, mobile confrontations
- No two situations are alike

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Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

- Hostage-Taker
 - Involves an armed and dangerous individual who may or may not have already used deadly force
 - In most cases, his access will be restricted; significant difference is the containment of the offender and victim
 - Motive can vary between substantive or expressive




Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

- Substantive motives include those things the hostage-taker cannot obtain for himself (money, escape, etc.)
 - ◊ Holds hostages to force fulfillment of demands upon a third party
 - ◊ Makes direct or implied threats to harm hostages if demands are not met
 - ◊ Primary goal is to achieve demands; **not** to harm hostages




Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expressive motives include compensating for a loss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Act in an emotional, senseless, and self-destructive way ◊ No clear goals; exhibit purposeless/self-defeating behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ No substantive or escape demands OR totally unrealistic demands ◊ Believe they have been wronged; strong emotions disrupt their ability to reason
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Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

- Hostage-Takers
 - Express their behavior or vent their frustration
 - ◊ Undertake actions that bring them into contact with Law Enforcement
 - Realize that ONLY by keeping their hostages alive can they hope to achieve their goals
 - ◊ Understand failure to do so will:
 - ✓ change the incident dynamics
 - ✓ increase likelihood authorities will use force to resolve the incident




Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

- Hostage survival can be enhanced if you:
 - Remain calm
 - Follow directions
 - Avoid sudden movements
 - Maintain eye contact (but don't stare)
 - Find the middle position (not too assertive/passive)
 - Personalize yourself
 - Don't argue
 - Don't be a nuisance
 - Don't turn your back



Active Shooter vs. Hostage-Taker

- Law Enforcement Negotiation Efforts
 - Will take time; be mentally prepared for a protracted situation
 - Law Enforcement negotiators will use active listening skills to:
 - ◊ Communicate with hostage-taker
 - ◊ Defuse emotions
 - ◊ Build rapport
 - ◊ Work towards a peaceful resolution
 - Historically, most hostage situations have been resolved through negotiations and ended peacefully



Behaviors of Concern



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Behaviors of Concern

- Common myths
 - Out of the blue
 - Never saw it coming
 - He just snapped
- Most situations will resolve themselves if given a cooling off period
- Warning signs are always predictive of violent behavior
- Violence is random, spontaneous, and unpredictable

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Behaviors of Concern


- Realities
 - Threats almost always present
 - Leakage, warnings made through comments (intentional or unintentional) can reveal clues to feelings, thoughts, fantasies, or intentions that may result in violence
 - Erratic/abnormal behavior is a principal warning sign of future violence
- Bullying is often a steppingstone to violence
- The path toward violence is an evolutionary one with signposts along the way

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Behaviors of Concern

➤ Offenders

- Often exhibit angry or argumentative behavior
- Blame others for their problems
- Fail to take responsibility for their own actions
- Retaliate against perceived injustice



Behaviors of Concern

➤ Other concerns


- Increasing belligerence
- Ominous, specific threats
- Hypersensitivity to criticism
- Recent acquisition/fascination with weapons



Behaviors of Concern


➤ Other concerns (Cont'd)

- Preoccupation with violent themes
- Interest in recently publicized violent events
- Outburst of anger
- Extreme disorganization
- Noticeable changes in behavior
- Homicidal/suicidal comments or threats




Behaviors of Concern

- Suicide
 - May not be perceived as a threat to others
 - Serious danger sign
 - Described as violence directed inward
 - Many campus shootings end in offender suicide




Prevention

- If suspicious or uncomfortable, report your observations and feelings
- Many reporting options available
 - Campus law enforcement
 - Resident assistants
 - Professors
 - Counseling centers
 - Anonymous reporting
- College violence prevention programs




Prevention

- Violence and threats of violence
 - Often result from frustration and a communication breakdown
 - Individuals can make a difference
 - ◊ Listen to "troubled" individual
 - ◊ People want to be heard and understood
 - ◊ A safe campus is everyone's responsibility



Summary

- How to respond to law enforcement responders
- Key information needed by law enforcement responders
- Distinctions between an active shooter and a hostage-taker
- > Behaviors of concern
- > Preventive measures to avert violence



Comments or Questions