Eastern Oregon University
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How to Respond to an Active Shooter Situation

An active shooter or active killer is a person who is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people. In most cases, active shooters or active killers use firearms, but may also use edged weapons, improvised explosive devices or a motor vehicle. Often there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims. For the purpose of this plan, active shooter and active killer are used interchangeably.

Develop a survival mindset

Active shooter situations are dynamic, evolve rapidly and will require you to make decisions regarding your personal welfare and the welfare of those around you. This document provides guidance to EOU students, faculty and staff to help develop a survival mindset in the event you are in an active shooter situation. Be aware of your surroundings at all times and be ready to act quickly!

Guidelines

If you witness an armed individual on campus, or if you hear shots fired on campus, you need to act immediately to save your life and the lives of others around you. You have three options: Run. Hide. Fight.

1. **Run**: Run away! Follow your instincts and act!
2. **Hide**: If running is not possible, hide in a room, under a desk, wherever you can that will take you out of the line of sight of the shooter. If possible, barricade the door.
3. **Fight**: If running or hiding are not viable options, then your only choice may be to physically stop the shooter. Improvise weapons and work in groups!

Because these situations are dynamic, you may need to transition between running, hiding and fighting as the situation evolves.

Run

Run away as far and as fast as you can until you are sure that you are in a safe location.

- Only call 911 when you are safely away from the area.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Run away, regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the shooter may be.
- Leave your belongings behind.
• Do not attempt to move any wounded people you may encounter.
• When police arrive, keep your hands visible and follow the instructions of any police officer.

Hide

If running away is not possible, find a place to hide and barricade the door.

Your hiding place should:
• Be out of the shooter’s view.
• Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
• Not trap or restrict your options for movement or escape.

To help prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:
• Lock the door, turn off the lights and be quiet.
• Barricade the door with heavy furniture.
• Hide behind large items such as cabinets or desks.
• Silence your cell phone and turn off the vibration.
• Turn off any source of noise.
• Determine if escape via secondary exit, such as a window, is now possible.

Fight

If escaping and hiding are not possible, you may need to fight the active shooter to save your life.

To attempt to overcome, disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter, you must:
• Commit to your actions. Your life depends on the ferocity of your attack.
• Take deliberate action to stop the threat.
• Work in groups if possible and act as aggressively as possible.
  o Throw items!
  o Yell!
  o Scream!
• Improvise weapons to use against the shooter.
What to expect when law enforcement arrives

Law enforcement’s purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. The first officers to arrive on the scene will not stop to help injured persons. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard. They may be dressed in uniform or plainclothes. Expect rescue teams comprised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to treat and transport any injured persons after the area is secured.

How to react when law enforcement arrives

- Avoid making quick movements toward officers.
- Immediately raise your hands and drop anything you are holding. Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Remain calm and follow officers’ instructions, they will tell you what to do.
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction.

On-scene officers (or the 911 dispatcher) may ask you for the following information:

- Location of the shooter.
- Number of shooters, if more than one.
- Description of the shooter.
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter.
- Number of victims.

Once you have reached a safe location or assembly point, you will be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control. Phone systems may become overburdened during these types of situations, so please refrain from making non-emergency phone calls.

Additional resources

To assist in your preparations for this unlikely event, the following videos are available online for your review:

*Shots Fired on Campus . . . When Lightning Strikes*, classroom version.  
*Shots Fired on Campus . . . When Lightning Strikes*, office version.

For related information, including the EOU Crisis Communication Plan, go to  
http://www.eou.edu/ua/EOU-Policies/crisis-communication-plan-policy

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.