

# Active Shooter

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Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

# Active Shooter

An **active shooter** is an individual(s) actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and other populated area.

In most cases, **active shooters** use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

**Active shooter** situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.







## Columbine HS April 20, 1999

[Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold](#) killed twelve students and a teacher, and wounded 23 others, before they both committed suicide.



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# Motivational Factors behind an Attack

- ▶ Disgruntled Employee (s)
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Evil Intent
- ▶ Hate (various biases)
- ▶ Mental Illness



# ACTIVE SHOOTER - HOW TO PREPARE

- ▶ Because active shooter situations are often over within 5 to 10 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.
- ▶ Be observant of surroundings and report suspicious behavior.
- ▶ Formulate a plan.



# WHAT TO DO ONCE THE SHOOTING STARTS

Decide your best course of action??????

- Run : Can you safely escape?
- Hide: Is there a good place to hide?
- Fight: Mentality will you be able to take out the shooter?



# ACTIVE SHOOTER - HOW TO RESPOND

## Run!

- If it is safe to do so, the first course of action that should be taken is to run out of the building and move far away until you are in a safe location. Trust your instincts.
- Have an escape route and plan in mind. Visualize possible escape routes before hand.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow. Help others escape, if possible.
- Leave personal belongings behind.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Do not attempt to move the wounded.
- Call 911 when you are safe.





# ACTIVE SHOOTER - HOW TO RESPOND

## Hide!

- If running is not a safe option, hide in as safe a place as possible.
- Find a location / Find protection.
- Cover vs. Concealment
- Lock door and block entry to your hiding place. Barricade the doors with heavy furniture.
- Avoid places that trap or restrict movement.
- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view. Close and lock windows, and close blinds or cover windows. Turn off lights.
- Spread out (don't huddle) - this gives options for escape and movement and makes you a harder target.
- Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.
- Remain in place until given an all clear by identifiable law enforcement.



# ACTIVE SHOOTER - HOW TO RESPOND

## Fight!!

If running nor hiding is not a safe option, as a last resort when confronted by the shooter, adults in immediate danger should consider trying to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter by using aggressive force and items in their environment, such as fire extinguishers, chairs, etc.



# ACTIVE SHOOTER - HOW TO RESPOND

## Fight!

- ✓ Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- ✓ Make a plan.
- ✓ Act as a team.
- ✓ Commit completely to your action plan
- ✓ Do whatever necessary to neutralize the situation.
- ✓ Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- ✓ Act with as much physical aggression as possible.
- ✓ Improvise weapons or throw items at the active shooter.
- ✓ Commit to your actions...your life depends on it.



# NCGS 14-51.3

## § 14-51.3. Use of force in defense of person; relief from criminal or civil liability.

- ▶ (a) A person is justified in using force, except deadly force, against another when and to the extent that the person reasonably believes that the conduct is necessary to defend himself or herself or another against the other's imminent use of unlawful force. However, a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat in any place he or she has the lawful right to be if either of the following applies:
  - ▶ (1) He or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.
  - ▶ (2) Under the circumstances permitted pursuant to G.S. 14-51.2.
- ▶ (b) A person who uses force as permitted by this section is justified in using such force and is immune from civil or criminal liability for the use of such force, unless the person against whom force was used is a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman who was lawfully acting in the performance of his or her official duties and the officer or bail bondsman identified himself or herself in accordance with any applicable law or the person using force knew or reasonably should have known that the person was a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman in the lawful performance of his or her official duties. (2011-268, s. 1.)





# WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES ON THE SCENE



# HOW YOU SHOULD REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- ▶ Remain calm, and follow officers instructions.
- ▶ Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
- ▶ Immediately raise hands and spread fingers.
- ▶ Keep hands visible at all times.
- ▶ Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as attempting to hold on to them for safety.



# HOW LAW ENFORCEMENT WILL RESPOND TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

- ▶ Police are trained to proceed as quickly as possible to the sound of the gunfire.
- ▶ Their purpose is to stop the shooter.
- ▶ Officers may be in plain clothes, patrol uniforms, or SWAT uniforms armed with long rifles, shotguns, and/or handguns. They will have identification.
- ▶ Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises.
- ▶ If possible, tell the officers where the shooter was last seen, and provide a full description of the shooter and any weapons used.
- ▶ The first responding police officers will not stop to assist injured people, others will follow to treat the injured.



# RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.®

## Surviving an Active Shooter Event



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# Conclusion

- ▶ Remember to constantly be aware of your surroundings.
- ▶ Active shooter situations are extremely unpredictable and traumatic, but they are survivable.
- ▶ RUN
- ▶ HIDE
- ▶ Fight

Have a plan for the best chance to survive!



Keeping You Safe  
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