

# Armed Intruder ACTIVE SHOOTER

# FAQ

## What is an ACTIVE SHOOTER/ARMED INTRUDER?

A person who appears to be actively engaged in killing or injuring people in a populated area — typically employing the use of firearms or other weapons and/or improvised explosive devices (IED). There may be no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

## “WHAT DO I DO?”

There is no single recommended procedure, but in general, you should follow these protocols.

### RUN

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises.

*Be sure to:*

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Do not pull the fire alarm
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
- Keep your hands visible and follow the instructions of any police officers
- Call 911 when you are safe

### HIDE

If evacuation is not possible, hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.

*Your hiding place should:*

- Be out of the active shooter's view
- Provide protection if shots are fired (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
- Not trap you or restrict your options for movement
- Prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:
  - Lock the door
  - Blockade the door with heavy furniture

*If the active shooter is nearby:*

- Lock the door, remain quiet
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager and turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios)
- Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)

*If running and hiding are not possible:*

- Remain calm
- Dial or text 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen
- Each classroom phone has a direct dial “HELP Button” if needed

### FIGHT

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her, yelling
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Committing to your actions

## What to expect from Law Enforcement Response

Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard. Arriving law enforcement personnel may wear tactical police uniforms and carry tactical rifles and shotguns.

*Information to provide to law enforcement or 911 operator:*

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one, and physical description of shooter/s
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s
- Number of potential victims at the location

*How to react when law enforcement arrives:*

- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers, keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

## How can I prepare?

- Prior to an incident, Active Shooters/Armed Intruders may transmit their intentions through various means. When you become aware of persons who present concerning behaviors, you should report them to UPD, SOCAT or your supervisor.
- You should prepare yourself by reviewing the information provided on the UPD web site regarding Active Shooter/Armed Intruder incidents:  
<https://www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/police/safety-and-preparedness/armed-intruder.aspx>
- You may also prepare in advance by always assessing your surroundings, determining what various actions you could take to secure doors or areas, seeking out available evacuation options, and by mentally preparing for your response to emergencies.
- Subscribe in advance to Alert USF (emergency notification system) and USF Safe (smartphone app for emergency protocols), both available at the UPD web page:  
<https://www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/police>

