

## **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) RUN HIDE FIGHT**

The College of Western Idaho (CWI) has developed a RUN, HIDE, FIGHT process for responding to an active shooter situation.

This process should be utilized as a guideline to all students, faculty, staff and visitors who may become directly or indirectly involved in this type of situation. Full cooperation is expected during such an occurrence.

### **General**

#### Profile of an Active Shooter

An "active shooter" is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable, evolve quickly and are often over within 5-15 minutes.

Individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation. Call 911 when safe to do so.

### **Handling an Active Shooter Situation**

There are three basic options: RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT. Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life.

1. RUN - Evacuate: If an escape route is accessible, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- a. Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- b. Evacuate regardless of other's decisions to stay or follow.
- c. Leave belongings behind.
- d. Assist others escaping, if possible.
- e. Prevent individuals from entering the area where the active shooter may be, WARN people.
- f. Keeps hands visible to law enforcement.
- g. Follow first responders, instructions, police, etc.
- h. DO NOT attempt to move wounded individuals.

2. HIDE OUT - If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where an active shooter is less likely to find you.

Your hiding place should:

- a. Be out of the shooter's line of sight or view.
- b. Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e. closed and locked door of office or closet).
- c. Not trap you or restrict options for movement.

To help prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

- a. Lock all doors.
- b. Barricade the door if possible with available items (i.e. heavy furniture, etc.).

If the active shooter is within your vicinity:

- a. Lock the door.
- b. Silence all cell phones, pagers, radios, or other devices, etc.
- c. Turn off sources of noise such as TVs, radios, etc.
- d. Conceal yourself behind large objects such as book cases, desks, etc.
- e. Remain silent, limit movement which creates noise.

3. FIGHT - TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE ACTIVE SHOOTER

Take last resort measures for survival when facing imminent injury or death. Attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- a. Acting aggressively towards the shooter engaging in physical attack
- b. Throwing items or using improvised weapons.
- c. Yelling.
- d. Staying committed to your actions. Do not let up until shooter is incapacitated or disrupted.

Depending on the situation, one may choose to alter these options. For example:

- One might choose to FIGHT instead of RUN, HIDE.
- One might choose to HIDE instead of FIGHT, RUN.
- One might choose to RUN and then FIGHT.
- One might choose to HIDE and then FIGHT.

**Each person must make their decision relevant to the situation and react accordingly.**

### **How to Respond When Law Enforcement Arrives**

Law enforcement's primary purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the threat was last heard.

- Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4).
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment.
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns, etc.
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation.
- Officers may shout commands and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.

### **1. HOW TO REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES**

Your attention to law enforcement officers is vital for survival

- a. Remain calm, and follow officers instructions.
- b. Put down any handheld items (i.e. bags, backpacks, jackets, etc).
- c. Immediately raise hands spread fingers.
- d. Keep hands visible at all times.
- e. Avoid making quick movements towards officers or grabbing onto them.
- f. Avoid pointing, screaming, or yelling at officers.
- g. DO NOT stop and ask officers for directions or help when evacuating, just proceed in the direction where officers are entering.

### **2. INFORMATION TO PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911**

Accurate and relevant information to law enforcement is vital for active shooter mitigation and can be provided to on scene police or 911.

- a. Location of the active shooter.
- b. Number of active shooters.
- c. Physical description of active shooter(s).
  - 1. Clothing, height, weight, hair color, type of weapon, etc.
- d. Number of weapons and types explosive type devices in area.
- e. Number of potential victims at the location.

**NOTE:**

Arriving officers will not stop to help injured persons, their initial response is to stop the active shooter, so be conscious of this. Expect rescue teams comprised of additional officers and other emergency medical personnel to follow the initial response officers.

The rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons. They may call upon able-bodied individuals to assist them in removing the wounded from the premises.

Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control and secure and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. DO NOT leave until released by law enforcement authorities.