

Safety Topics and Procedures: *Campus Violence – “Active Shooter”*



It has become an increasing reality in America, people committing acts of violence against students, faculty and staff members on university campuses. Though our community exists in a relative “quiet” sector of the Pacific Northwest, the potential for violence to strike here is just as real as anywhere. To prepare our campus community to respond to any such incident and promote a response of power vs. fear, the following procedures are recommended. We will regularly drill and practice our response to these incidents and work diligently to maintain a safe and peaceful campus environment, free from such senseless acts.

Commonly, these incidents are carried out by armed individuals with either a specific or random target. They are often referred to as an “Active Shooter.”

Active Shooter Defined: One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. The overriding objective appears to be that of inflicting serious bodily injury/death rather than other criminal conduct. These situations are dynamic and evolve rapidly, demanding immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to innocent victims.

Pacific University’s Response:

In a Classroom or Office

- If you are inside a classroom or office stay where you are. If possible lock the door, cover windows, turn off all lights, silence cell phones and stay quiet. Spread out and take cover.
- If the door does not lock attempt to barricade the door with heavy objects in the room such as a desk, file cabinet etc.
- Depending on the location of the gunman, call 911 and report an active shooter in the building. If the gunman is close to the room you are in stay quiet and do not make any phone calls.
- When Police Officers arrive on scene and make entry into the office or classroom you are in do not make any sudden moves or actions. Remain calm, put your hands up so that the officers can see your hands and they know you are not a threat to them. Be ready to share as much information with them as possible as far as the description of the shooter, weapons, direction last seen heading etc.
- Do not leave the classroom or office until you have been given the all clear by either a uniformed Police or Campus Safety Officer or recognized university administrator.

In a Hallway or Corridor

- Attempt to gain access to a classroom or office prior to them being locked and barricaded. Or attempt to find an empty classroom/office and get inside and secure as listed above.
- If you can not get into a secure location you need to find the nearest exit and get out of the building as fast as possible. Do not spend too much time trying to locate a classroom or office as time is valuable. When outside of the building find the fastest way off of campus and take cover as soon as you are safely out of the building and away from the incident. You can find cover by hiding behind a car, brick walls, large trees etc.
- Call 911 and report with as much information as possible.

In an Auditorium, Dining hall or other location with numerous people gathered

- If you are in a gym, auditorium, theater, dining hall etc and the gunman is not presently at that location move to the nearest exit and get out of the building. If you see police cars on or near campus move toward them quickly with your hands on top of your head and do exactly what the police tell you to do. If there are no police cars near you, find the closest and safest route away from the building and get to a location where you can find cover.
- Call 911 and report with as much information as possible.

CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY
2043 College Way
Forest Grove, OR 97116
503-352-2230 phone
503-352-2994 fax
www.pacificu.edu/cps



Confronted by Gunman

- If the gunman enters the room that you are in or while you are looking for a safe exit the gunman confronts you consider the following options.
- Listen to what the gunman says, do not do anything to provoke or alarm the gunman. Put your arms up so that you do not present a threat to the gunman. At this point it is up to you to do what you feel is necessary to help save your life and the lives of others around you.
- If the gunman does at this point start shooting think about the following as common responses and be aware that at this point the decision is up to you as to how you are going to proceed. You can stay where you are, take cover where possible and hope that you are not hit while the gunman is shooting. You have the option of running to the nearest exit. It would be recommended that if you do this that you run in a zig-zag pattern as it will be harder for the shooter to hit you if they are going to fire toward you. Another option as a last resort would be to attack the gunman. Be aware of your surroundings from the very beginning of the incident, if you find something that you could use to assist in the attack of a gunman should they start attacking the room you are in be sure to know the location and how to use it. Be aware that attacking the gunman is the most dangerous option and should only be considered as a last resort.
- A gunman will most likely not expect to be attacked by a person or persons when entering a room. Any choice that you make may end with some negative consequences.

On Campus but Outside Buildings

- Look for police cars on or near campus, move toward them quickly with your hands on top of your head and do exactly what the police tell you to do. If there are no police cars near you, find the closest and safest route away from the building and get to a location where you can find cover.
- Call 911 and report with as much information as possible.

Important information to be aware of

- The response of the police department is to neutralize the gunman first. That means that they will not have time to help you or even help someone who is wounded. The response from the police is due to the need to stop the gunman from taking more lives or inflicting more damage to others. After the gunman has been neutralized the police along with other agencies will focus on helping the injured get the care they need.
- Important numbers to have in your cell phone:
 - Campus Public Safety 24 hours a day: 503-352-2230
- Always notify the police department by calling 911 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Emergency notification of an active shooter on campus will consist of the following alerts:
 - Carillon system-Emergency PA system.
 - Air horns-there are air horns located in each building. The air horns will sound 5 blasts to designate an active shooter on campus.
 - Boxer alerts-This consists of those who have registered receiving text messages with an emergency alert and also all faculty/staff/students will receive an emergency email message.

It is important to know that the topics discussed in this document are general information. There is a more specific plan the University has put together with the help of local law enforcement agencies to deal with an active shooter on campus. The purpose of this document is to give you the tools needed to try and help increase your chances of surviving an active shooter incident at our University. It is the hope of the University that by understanding this document, thinking about your own personal response and further training from the University that you will be able to survive any active shooter scenario.