

# How to Survive an

# Active Shooter



*How you respond to an active shooter / active threat situation will be dictated by the specific circumstances of the encounter. If you find yourself involved in an active shooter / active threat situation, try to remain calm and please use these guidelines to help you plan a strategy for action and survival.*

***A guide for faculty, staff, students and visitors of  
SUNY Cobleskill  
provided by your***



***New York State University Police***

## **If You See Something, Say Something**

If you see or hear of anyone displaying concerning behaviors, tell UPD or other college officials so that the behavior can be investigated. Some concerning behaviors may include:

- Sudden or increased use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism from work or class
- Noticeable decrease in personal hygiene and appearance
- Signs of Depression/withdrawal
- Resistance and/or overreaction to workplace/class changes
- Repeated violations of workplace/school policies
- Increased and/or severe mood swings
- Noticeably unstable, erratic, and/or aggressive
- Explosive outbursts or anger without provocation
- Talking about suicide
- Paranoid behavior (“everyone is out to get me”)
- Increase of domestic problems into the workplace
- Talk of severe financial problems
- Displaying empathy for individuals who have committed violence
- Increased talk about weapons and violence
- Showing up with weapons
- Observable grievances with threats and plans of retribution

## **Options If You Encounter An Active Shooter**

### **RUN!**

- Try to remain calm so you can respond effectively
- If you are able to run/escape, do so immediately
- Leave your belongings behind
- Be prepared for a police response
- Do not stop to assist injured persons
- Be prepared to change your route or plan if you encounter the shooter(s)
- Only call 911 when it is safe to do so

## HIDE!

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Block entry to your hiding place/lock the door if you are able to
- Silence your cell phone, watch, etc.
- Turn off the lights
- Does hiding place offer protection from gunfire?
- Check your hiding area for possible escape routes and/or items you can use as weapons if needed
- Have a plan if found by the shooter: what are you going to do next??

## FIGHT!

- Last resort when life is in danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter as quickly as possible
- Work as a team if you are with others
- Act with speed and physical aggression
- Throw objects at the shooter
- Strike the shooter with objects
- Attack the shooter's weapon or their ability to use it
- YOU MUST FIGHT LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, BECAUSE IT DOES!

## *What to Expect From the Police Response*

- Police will proceed immediately to the area in which shots were last heard or reported. Their purpose is to stop the shooting as quickly as possible.
- First responders will be University Police Officers in duty uniform. Additional police officers from other area departments may also respond to assist, and they may be in uniform or in plain clothes.
- Responding police officers may have Kevlar helmets, rifles, and other tactical equipment needed to control the situation.
- If you know where the shooter is, tell them.
- The first officers to arrive **WILL NOT** stop to aid the injured until the active shooter no longer has the ability to harm people.
- Rescue teams of emergency medical personnel will follow police into secured areas to provide medical aid.

- Remain calm and follow instructions from the police
- Drop any items you have in your hands
- Keep your hands up and fingers spread
- Keep moving in the direction that the police tell you to
- Refrain from stopping to assist wounded persons
- Refrain from yelling or screaming
- Refrain from running towards, grabbing, or clinging to officers

**REMEMBER:** When everything is over, the area will be considered a crime scene and you will be detained until all witnesses have been identified and interviewed as part of the criminal investigation. Do not discuss events with the media.

**if you SEE  
something  
SAY  
something**

***To Contact UPD:***

***dial 5555 from any campus phone***

***dial 518-255-5555 from any cell phone***

***dial 911***

***Submit an anonymous tip at:***

***<https://apps.cobleskill.edu/tipline>***

