

ACTIVE SHOOTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

An active shooter emergency involves one or more persons, using a firearm, engaging in a random or systematic shooting spree. The vast majority of shootings in this country are over in a matter of minutes, involve persons known to one another, and are confined to a particular area. An active shooter incident does not follow any template. It may last for minutes or hours, range over a large and constantly changing area, and threaten everyone within the proximity of the shooter.

Persons may or may not receive advance warning of an active shooter. The personal observation of the sound of gunshots may be the only alert you receive, leaving little time to react. The sound of gunshots, unlike special effects in a movies and television, may sound muffled and make a “pop, pop, pop” noise. It is reasonable to assume that a series of such noises are gunshots and you should begin to take necessary precautions.

Traditional response to this type of incident has been to shelter in place and wait for the police to arrive. While this type of response is not completely wrong, case studies of several active shooter incidents have shown that using only this response has resulted in an increase in casualties. Elyria Catholic High School has adopted the ALICE response plan to assist you in your response should this type of incident occur.

ALICE

ALICE is an acronym for the 5 steps you can utilize to increase your chances of surviving a surprise attack by an active shooter. It is important to remember that the ALICE response does not follow a set of actions you “shall, must, or will” do when confronted with an active shooter. Your survival, and the survival of the students in your care, is paramount in this situation. Deal with known information and do not worry about the unknowns. You may use only one or two parts of the ALICE response plan, or you may have to use all five. In this type of incident, your perception is the reality and you will be deciding the appropriate action plan for you and your students.

ALERT

Alert can come in many forms, including:

- Sounds of gunfire
- A P.A. announcement
- The witnessing of an active shooter in the building
- Notice via phone or computer

LOCKDOWN

This is a semi-secure starting point from which to make survival decisions. If you decide not to evacuate, secure the room and plan to counter, if necessary.

- Make sure the door is locked - Your classroom door should always remain locked so that you simply have to pull your door closed in the event of an active shooter
- Have somebody call 911
- Place a zip tie from your GO BUCKET over the linked arm door closer to secure it further
- Barricade the doorway with anything available (cabinets, desks, chairs).
- Move students away from the doorway
- Look for alternate escape routes (windows, other doors, etc.)
- Develop a plan to counter the active shooter if the door is breached
- Gather potential weapons and mentally prepare yourself and the students to counter the active shooter
- Put yourself in a position to surprise the active shooter should they breach the door

INFORM

Use any means necessary to pass on real-time information.

- Avoid the use of codes; use plain English
- Can be derived from personal observation, video surveillance, 911 calls, etc.
- Provide the who, what, when, and how information
- Information provided can be used by people in the area to make common sense decisions about how to proceed
- Can be provided by P.A. announcements, walkie-talkie, cell phone messages, Twitter, police radio speakers, etc.

COUNTER

This is the use of simple, proactive measures should you be confronted by the active shooter.

- Anything can be a weapon; utilize the items in your GO BUCKET and/or a fire extinguisher, if present in your room
- Throw any/all items at the active shooter's head to disrupt his actions
- Create as much noise and distraction as possible
- Attack in a group; swarm the active shooter's limbs and head and hold him on the ground until help arrives
- Fight back by any means necessary – kick, bite, scratch, gouge eyes, etc.
- Remove and conceal any weapon to ensure police do not inadvertently attack the wrong party
- If you have control of the active shooter, call 911 to let the police know your location

EVACUATE

Remove yourself and your students from the danger zone as quickly as possible and **report to the rally point at St. Jude Church.**

- Decide if you can safely evacuate
- Run in a zigzag pattern if you encounter resistance or shots are fired at you
- Do not stop running until you are outside and far away from the danger zone
- If possible, bring something to throw in case you encounter the shooter
- If on the second floor, still consider the windows as a possible means of escape
- Break out windows and attempt to quickly clear glass from the frame
- If possible, hang by your hands from the second story window to shorten your drop or attempt to drop into shrubs, mulch or grass to lessen the chance of injury
- **Instruct ALL students to report directly to the rally point at St. Jude Church** – This is the location where emergency services will report and where parents will be instructed to report to pick up their children

SECONDARY ISSUES

- Responding police will have their weapons drawn and ready for use. They do not know exactly who the shooter is and will probably point weapons at you. Remain calm and follow any directions given to you. You may be asked questions, patted down, and given orders to exit certain ways.
- Responding police are there to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. They will bypass injured people and will not help you escape. Only after the shooter is stopped will they begin to provide other assistance.
- If you come into possession of a weapon, DO NOT carry or brandish it! Police may think you are the active shooter. If possible, put it in a trashcan and carry it with you. If you come across police, calmly tell them what you are carrying and why. Follow their commands.
- Be prepared to provide first aid. Items in your GO BUCKET include a basic first aid kit, as well as tampons and feminine napkins to be used to stop blood loss. Belts and shoe laces can be used as tourniquets. Remember, it may be several hours until an injured person can be safely moved. The actions you take immediately to treat them may save their life.
- If you are in lockdown for an extended period of time, give consideration to issues such as make-shift bathroom use, keeping people calm, etc. Remember to utilize all of the items contained in your classroom GO BUCKET to assist you in this regard.
- It is ok to allow students to use their cell phones to text their loved ones, provided you are in a secured, lockdown location. However, ensure that all students are focused on the tasks at hand if you are facing a situation where you may have to counter the active shooter.

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