Responding to an Active Shooter

Presented by:
Franklin & Marshall Department of Public Safety
Training Module 36-A

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Introduction

- Franklin & Marshall College has a beautiful and inviting open campus. It is a great place to work and study. For students, it’s a great place to live while you are framing your future.
- Generally, F&M campus is a safe place to live, study and work. It has a beautiful, relaxed environment.
- Unfortunately, no place is totally safe from random acts of violence.
- This presentation is intended to help you stay safe if an active shooter ever comes to our campus community.
The three basic steps to safety

As you will learn in this presentation, there are basic rules to survival in an active shooter situation:

**RUN!**

**HIDE!**

**SURVIVE!**

**CALL PUBLIC SAFETY!**

You will learn more as you progress through the presentation.
Most active shooters are males between the ages of 13 and 55 years of age.
- 69% are between 13 and 20 years old.
- About half are college age.
- Active shooter situations are unpredictable and are usually over within 8 – 15 minutes. *
- A shooter could be someone connected to the College

An active shooter could easily gain access to college buildings posing as a student.

Why do they do it?

- Common motives for gun violence include anger, revenge, ideology, and untreated mental illness. Causes may include:
  - Relationship problems
  - A history of rejection
  - No social outlets
  - A victim of bullying
  - Desire to prove manhood or virility
  - Racial, religious, political bias
  - Unable to cope with life’s disappointments
  - Blame others for their failures
  - Many more
There are five phases of an active shooter incident.

1. Fantasy stage
2. Planning stage
3. Preparation stage
4. Approach stage
5. Implementation stage

Incidents can be prevented by recognizing the signs that an individual is preparing to carry out a shooting rampage.

*Let us expand on these five stages.*
Initially, the shooter only dreams of the shooting. He/She
- Fantasizes about the headlines and the news coverage,
- Pictures breaking the death count record,
- Envisions going out in a blaze of glory,
- May draw pictures or post writings on his social media sites,
- May discuss desires with friends.

Tips to law enforcement can prevent casualties from occurring.
2. The Planning Stage

At the planning stage, the individual is still only a potential shooter.

- He/She is determining logistics.
  - This includes the who, what, when, where and how of the planned infamous day.
- Plans may be in writing or on social media.
- The person may share the plan with others.
- A time and location will be decided upon.
- Weapons will be obtained.

*There is still time to inform law enforcement and prevent casualties from occurring!*
In the preparation stage, the individual may be obtaining other weapons, ammunition, explosives, and tactical gear. At this stage, he/she:

- May be doing dry runs to the chosen location.
- May be conducting surveillance of the location to know when the most people will be there.
- May tell friends to stay away from the chosen site on the day he plans to attack.

There is still time to inform law enforcement and prevent casualties from occurring!
4. The Approach Stage

In the approach stage, the individual has completed the plan and is committed to carrying out the act.

At this critical stage, he/she

- Is actually moving toward the target site.
- Will most likely be carrying the weapons and tools ready for the carnage.

*This is the last opportunity for alert observers or those who have knowledge of the plan to warn law enforcement!*
5. The Implementation Stage

Once the shooter opens fire, everything we will cover in the following slides may help you survive the attack.

• If not stopped, the shooter will continue to kill until he/she runs out of ammunition or victims.
• The active shooter is unique because he/she is going for the highest number of kills on record.
• For the shooter, it is almost like a bizarre video game with real victims.
• The scene will be loud and chaotic.

The following slides are intended to help you survive an active shooter situation.
What if it occurs here?

There are basic rules to survival in an active shooter situation:

1. Run
2. Hide
3. Survive (defend yourself)
4. Notify (Public Safety)

Let us expand on these four basic rules.
1. Run

If you can, attempt to escape from the premises.

• Be sure to:
  ✓ Have an escape route and plan in mind
  ✓ Run regardless of whether others agree to follow
  ✓ Leave your belongings behind
  ✓ Help others escape, if possible
  ✓ Prevent others from entering the area where a shooter may be
  ✓ Keep your hands visible
  ✓ Follow the instructions of any police officer
  ✓ Do not attempt to move wounded people
  ✓ Call F&M’s Department of Public Safety at 717-358-3939 or dial 911 when you are safe.
2. Hide out

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

• Your hiding place should:
  ✔ Be out of the shooter’s view
  ✔ Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office or classroom with a closed and locked door)
  ✔ Not trap you or restrict your options for movement or escape
2. Hide out, cont.

To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

✔ Lock the door
✔ Blockade the door with heavy furniture or objects
✔ Remain quiet
✔ Turn off cell phone ringers
✔ Close blinds
✔ Turn off interior lights
✔ Block windows or doors
✔ Turn off radios and computer monitors, if possible
✔ Hide behind large items

Create the illusion that no one is in the room.
3. Survive (defend yourself)

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

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Throwing items such as fire extinguishers
- Teaming up with others who share the hiding place
- Yelling

Commit to your survival actions!
4. Notify Public Safety Police

Call 717-291-3939 or 911 when you can (without jeopardizing your safety) to notify law enforcement.

- The shooter may continue to kill people until he/she believes law enforcement is on the way.
- When they hear law enforcement approach, 40% of active shooters end the situation by suicide or attempted suicide.
- The quicker police can respond, the fewer casualties are likely to occur.

* Source: NYPD Recommendations and Analysis for Risk Mitigation, Dec. ‘12
The *LiveSafe* wireless application is a simple way to notify Public Safety of an active shooter event.

- Simply press the emergency button on your *LiveSafe* application screen.
- Public Safety Police Officers may not know what the emergency call relates to, but they will be alerted that an emergency condition exists.

*Provide more information if possible.*

Information to provide to Public Safety or the 911 call-taker:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of the shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s), if known.
- Number of potential victims at your location.

*Weapons and ammunition taken from an 18-year-old high school student at school. 12/17/12*
When law enforcement officers arrive, their purpose is to stop the active shooter as quickly as possible.

- Officers will proceed directly to the area where the last shots were heard.
- Officers may be in regular patrol uniforms or special tactical gear with helmets.
- Officers may be armed with handguns, shotguns and rifles.
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to clear an area where the shooter is believed to be.
- Officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their own safety.
When police arrive, cont.

The police are trying to identify the shooter, but may have no idea who they are looking for. Don’t confuse them by your actions.

• What you should do when police arrive:
  ✔ Remain calm and follow instructions
  ✔ Put down any items in your hands (i.e., handbags, jackets, etc.)
  ✔ Immediately raise your hands and spread your fingers
  ✔ Keep hands visible at all times
  ✔ Avoid making quick movements toward the officers such as reaching to them for safety
Avoid pointing, yelling or screaming.

Don’t stop to ask officers for directions when evacuating, just go the direction from which they are coming into the building.

*Is everyone here a victim? Police can’t tell and will take every precaution.*
When police arrive, cont.

The first officers on the scene will **not** stop to help injured victims.

- Rescue teams will follow.
- Officers may call upon able-bodied individuals in the area to assist in removing injured victims.
How much can a shooter carry?

Watch this following video clip to get an idea just how much a person can hide on their body:
Run – Hide – Survive!

The following video was created to reinforce the concepts we have described in the previous slides. Please watch it carefully.
The trauma and confusion that follows an active shooter incident may take days or weeks to stabilize.

- You may want to forget, but the details of what you saw or heard may be very important in the investigation.
- Don’t try to deal with your emotions alone.
- Seek professional support.
We hope you never experience an active shooter situation here at F&M. If it ever does happen, we want you to be as prepared as possible to deal with the incident and survive it.

- Please be vigilant about people you see on campus about whom you feel suspicious.
- Report any comments you hear that suggest a plan for violence is being made.
- Never hesitate to call F&M’s Department of Public Safety!

William J. McHale
AVP for Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety is an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency.