

# Active Threat Response Guide

## ► INTRODUCTION

While much has been focused on shooting incidents, threats to your physical safety come in many forms. It is an unfortunate reality that we must even consider the possibility. Individuals may be armed with firearms, knives, or personal weapons. Other individuals may verbally threaten violence or be in mental crisis. The term "Active Threat" is used to describe the threat as immediate and ongoing. These situations evolve very rapidly and may require immediate action on your part.

Pre-planning for such an incident will be your best chance for surviving an active threat/active shooter incident. Know your escape routes, know how you will respond, and prepare yourself to actively fight the attacker as a last resort. This training guide cannot cover every possible situation that might occur but it is a training tool that can reduce the number of injuries or death if put into action as soon as a situation develops. Time is the most important factor in the optimal management of these types of situations.

These guidelines are based on the best available information and are applicable to any location on campus.

The University Police Department strongly urges each of you to familiarize yourselves with every possible scenario and the options provided. For the full version please visit the University Police Department web site - [www.umass.edu/umpd/emergencyprocedures/](http://www.umass.edu/umpd/emergencyprocedures/).

## ► ACTIVE SHOOTER / ACTIVE THREAT SCENARIO

### What should you do if an armed or dangerous individual is threatening your safety?

First, you should trust your instincts! Real gunshots may sound different than those you have heard on television or in movies. Do not dismiss these sounds, alert others in your immediate area and try to determine where the sounds are coming from.

If you believe someone is shooting a gun then you need to implement your action plan. Your action plan will depend on the immediate situation, however, some common concepts should be in place.

- If you can evacuate the building, do so! You should evacuate "from somewhere, to somewhere." ***Your action plan should include identifying those locations where you could seek shelter.*** If you decide to evacuate the building, do it immediately! Don't finish work, leave valuables behind, and get out!
- As you leave, alert others of the danger. Once in a safe place, call 911 and tell police dispatch what is happening. ***Your action plan should include phone numbers to the Police Department.***
- If you cannot evacuate the building safely, you need to barricade yourself in an office or other room that can be locked. If the door cannot be locked then move furniture or other heavy objects behind it.
- Once secured in a room try to remain calm by taking slow deep breaths. Contact 911 and alert police dispatch of the situation and your location. Silence cell phones. ***Your action plan should include locating rooms in your immediate area that can be locked and secured.***

- If the shooter is in your immediate area, you should remain as quiet as possible. This is the time when you need to prepare yourself for the reality that the shooter may come face to face with you. Your last resort may be to physically attack the shooter. You must prepare yourself to win that confrontation. How can you do this?

## ► POSITIVE MENTAL PREPARATION - FIGHT TO WIN!

- Find something to distract the shooter's attention. This can be done by throwing things at the shooter, (plants, chairs, stacks of papers etc.)
- Once the shooter is distracted, you may need to immediately attack the shooter using all available weapons to fight until the shooter is no longer a threat. You may need to take the shooter to the ground and physically hold him/her there until police arrive. ***Your action plan should prepare you mentally to win and identify possible weapons that could be used to save your life.***
- When police arrive, you must obey the commands issued. This is for your safety! Your actions may be considered a threat to responding police officers. Keep your hands in clear view, do not make sudden movements or pick up any type of weapon. Officers will give you further instructions. The first officers you see may not stop to aid injured people. More help will come.

## MY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

My nearest exit and stairs are located:

\_\_\_\_\_

I can safely evacuate to this building:

\_\_\_\_\_

I will alert others as I leave.

When I get there, I go to this location in the building: \_\_\_\_\_

To call the University Police from on campus phones:  
911 or 545-2121

**To call the University Police from cell phones:**  
911-calls Mass. State Police, tell the dispatcher the  
emergency and they will connect to UMPD

I have 413-545-2121 programmed in my phone  
under "UMPD"  or 545-2121

Rooms in my immediate area that can  
be locked are: \_\_\_\_\_

I can use the following to block the door or  
tie it shut: \_\_\_\_\_

I can hide in the following locations in my  
immediate area: \_\_\_\_\_

I have prepared myself mentally, and I will  
think of this if I have to fight the attacker:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will fight to WIN!



For more information please visit our  
web site: [www.umass.edu/umpd](http://www.umass.edu/umpd)

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Safety Guidelines and  
Emergency Response Plan



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