

## Active Shooter Protocol

Because active shooter situations are typically over in ten minutes or less, there is often not sufficient time for law enforcement to respond to prevent tragedy. Therefore, individuals must be prepared to deal with the situation either initially and/or to identify the situation quickly in order to prevent escalation. As a result, threatening and/or violent behaviors should be considered potentially serious and reported quickly, as soon as it is safe to do so.

If the threat is serious and immediate: leave the situation if possible and call 911. Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect yourself. In the moment, you will need to make a personal choice based on your assessment of the situation. Keep in mind that others are likely to follow your lead during an emergency situation. Possible options include, in order of desirability, depending upon circumstances:

### Run

- Have an evacuation route and plan.
- Help others to evacuate if possible.
- Leave even if others refuse to evacuate.
- Leave belongings behind.
- Keep hands visible to law enforcement

### Hide

- Hide in an area out of the violent person's view.
- Lock the doors and block entry by placing furniture against the doors.
- Hide where there is an escape route, avoid being trapped.
- Turn off the lights.
- Turn off cell phone ringer and set to vibrate.
- Remain silent until given the all clear by law enforcement officials (visibly check).

**Fight**(As a **last resort**, if neither running nor hiding is a safe option and only when your life is in imminent danger)

- Attempt to incapacitate the violent person by using items such as chairs, fire extinguishers, or heavy books.

**At any point: Call 911 when it is safe to do so.** It is not necessary that you speak to the operator; if you cannot speak and remain safe, simply leave the line open so that the dispatcher can hear as the situation unfolds.

*\*Resource: Department of Homeland Security*