

The Active Shooter

The police department is often requested to provide presentations to schools, businesses, and civic groups about an assortment of topics. Recently the topic tends to center around workplace violence and active shooters. Recent events probably support the need for discussion concerning actions to take. The prevailing training focuses on the concept of *RUN, HIDE, FIGHT*. Although this sounds simple, there are many things to be considered. Each location and response will be different due to the layout of a facility, the screening and entry processes for visitors and employees, and the amount of preparation and training. The widely accepted profile of an active shooter is "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms".

If an active shooter is in your vicinity **RUN**. If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate. Evacuate whether others agree to or not. Do not worry about your belongings, leave them behind. If you can help others escape do so but don't let it delay your evacuation. Once you have evacuated immediately call 9-1-1.

If an evacuation is not possible, find a place to **HIDE**. You should lock and/or blockade the door. Be sure to silence your cell phone. Find large items and hide behind them. Remain very quiet. If possible, make your hiding place out of the shooter's view and a location that provides protection if shots are fired in your direction. Do not trap or restrict your options for movement or later evacuation.

As a last resort, **FIGHT**. You should fight only if your life is in danger. Use whatever can be used as a weapon - improvise. Act with the intent to incapacitate the shooter. Act with physical aggression and committed actions, your life depends on it.

Know that someone will call 9-1-1 and Law Enforcement will arrive. Keep in mind that law enforcement's primary response is to locate the shooter. Be sure to remain calm and follow instructions. Keep your hands visible at all times. Avoid pointing or yelling. Know that help for the injured is on the way.

Should you have questions about this topic or need further information, please contact the department at (931) 455-0530, or I can be reached at pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov.