

Violent Intruder / Active Shooter

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Active shooter and violent intruder situations are certainly the most disturbing events that any organization can face. The apparent rise in these types of attacks in recent years has created a need for every organization to have a clear, well-defined plan of action when faced with these devastating situations. An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms, and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooters often have intended target victims, but will take targets of opportunity that present themselves. Active shooter's goal is to kill as many people as possible to create the biggest effect. Most active shooting incidents have occurred in locations where the shooter has been undeterred and unobstructed from carrying out their attack. The incident locations have often been described as soft targets with limited active security measures or armed personnel to provide protection for members of the public. In most instances, shooters have either taken their own lives, been shot by police, or surrendered when forced with a confrontation by law enforcement. APCG in an effort to maintain a safe work environment for its employees has taken a proactive approach via training and the development of this procedure. Active shooter scenarios have created a paradigm shift in law enforcement due to the fact that active shooters are unlikely to surrender and generally do not desire escape. The law enforcement response must be aggressive and implemented as quickly as possible. The agenda of the active shooter is straightforward: harm as many individuals as possible until cornered or captured by law enforcement and escape is not typically a priority. In the majority of cases, active shooters have already decided that they will commit suicide. Generally the desired response for unarmed individuals in an active shooter situation is to evacuate the location. APCG will utilize a three step process in dealing with an active shooter inside its facilities.

Evacuate

If an opportunity presents itself attempt to evacuate the location and take as many employees or visitors to APCG around you as possible. Run to the nearest evacuation location and move as far away from the building as possible. When considering evacuation remember windows can be used as an evacuation route. It is important to remember that a lull in the shooting does not mean the active shooter is done. They could be lying in wait for people to appear in hallways or doors. If you have any question where the intruder is or you feel evacuation is not possible secure yourself and others in a safe location.

Secure

Attempt to secure yourself in a safe area preferably one that provides cover against gun fire. Lock all doors, barricade doors if possible. Hide in an area out of the sight line of the shooter. If cover is not possible attempt to conceal yourself and any other employees or visitors with you.

Confront

If the intruder gains access to an area where you are located be prepared to confront the intruder in an attempt to disable them. Be prepared to use extreme physical violence to prevent injuries to yourself and others. Many items commonly found in APCG can be used as weapons these items include but are not limited to (Scissors, Fire Extinguishers, chairs, tools, broken glass, pens, etc). In the event you are forced to confront be prepared to fight for your life and the lives of others. Attack vital areas such as eyes, groin, throat, head, and nose. Fight like your life depends on it—because it does! It is important for the management and employees of APCG to understand how law enforcement will respond to an active shooter or violent intruder. Generally the first arriving officers will attempt to locate and neutralize the threat. APCG employees should understand that police will not assist in an evacuation or rescue until the threat has been neutralized. Then police will go to rooms or areas with injured and evacuate them first. The police will systematically search the facility for additional intruders and then will evacuate the occupants. If an active shooter/or violent intruder situation occurs outside the employees should immediately conduct a reverse evacuation into the facility and notify those in the facility of the situation via the proper notification. The staff should then lock down in place. Be aware that active shooters and violent intruders may place devices to be used for secondary attack. Be observant of exits in case they

are rigged with devices, etc. Stay away from suspect's vehicle during evacuation as it could also be a source of an improvised explosive device.

In addition a tactic used by active shooters is to create a fire emergency or pull a fire alarm to get many victims in a small area. APCG makes every effort to keep its facilities secure and prevent these types of attacks when possible. APCG has an active EAP program to deal with internal employee needs and issues as they develop.

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