

HOSTILE INTRUDER COMMUNITY GUIDELINE ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Introduction

A Hostile Intruder or Active Shooter incident can be described as activity that causes death and/or serious bodily injury through the use of a firearm or other deadly weapon. It is a dynamic situation that usually evolves rapidly and demands an immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to terminate the life-threatening situation. The typical scenario lasts between 4 and 18 minutes and involves multiple victims. Unlike in the past when violent intruders would seek to take hostages, today's intruders tend to enter schools, workplaces and places of assembly with a 'kill them all' mindset. Recent history suggests that the intruders themselves intend to die by the time an incident is over.

The motives for such acts may include fulfilling fantasies, seeking attention, settling grudges or personal disputes, and domestic violence. They may be random in nature or targeted toward individuals or an organization, and there may or may not be any warning indicators prior to an incident. While prevention may not be possible in most cases, it is important for us to be vigilant in identifying threats to individuals or groups within our campus community, seeking appropriate interventions to avoid the manifestation of violence.

Police Response and Objectives

When notified of an active incident in progress, police will immediately mobilize substantial resources. Officers from local and state police will respond to the scene, secure the area and set up a command post. Teams of officers will be assembled to enter the area with the primary objective of locating and eliminating the threat. This can take place within minutes.

These officers may be equipped with shotguns, tactical rifles, helmets, masks, tear gas and other equipment. They may be in uniform or plain clothes with police identifiers. They will move quickly and directly in small groups to areas of audible gunfire or disturbance. Rescue efforts for wounded will not take place until an area is secured and the threat eliminated. If the sound of gunfire is not heard and the shooting suspect is believed to still be in a building, officers will conduct a dynamic room by room search of each floor. Police will also evacuate the occupants of a building when safe egress routes can be established.

Once the threat has been removed and the area secured, rescue operations for the wounded will begin and a thorough evacuation of the area will take place.

Guideline

If you witness an armed individual on campus acting in a hostile manner or shooting at people or hear gunshots on campus, immediately dial 911. Provide the dispatcher with as much information as you can regarding location, direction of travel, and description of the person(s) to include firearms being used. DO NOT HANG UP until told to do so.

If the shooter/intruder is outside the building:

- Turn off all lights, close and lock all windows and doors and close shades.
- If you can do so safely, get all occupants on the floor and out of any potential line of fire.
- Move to a core area of the building, only if the building has been secured and it is safe to do so. Remain there until police tell you it is safe to move.

If the shooter/intruder is inside the building:

- If it is possible to escape the area safely and avoid danger, do so by the nearest exit or window. Leave personal belongings behind. As you leave the building, keep your hands above your head and listen for instructions that may be given by police on the outside. Move to a safe (protected) area.
- Contact 911, report your location and name(s) and any details that you can.
- If escape is not possible, lock all doors, turn off lights and hide in the immediate area.
- Lie on the floor or under/behind furniture and remain silent.
- Wait for the police to come find you.

If the shooter/intruder enters your class or office:

- While there is no set procedure in this case, use common sense.
- Dial 911 if possible, if you cannot speak leave the line open so the dispatcher can listen to what's going on.
- If you are hiding and flight is not possible, attempts to negotiate with the individual may be successful.
- Attempting to overcome the individual with force is a last resort that should only be initiated in the most extreme circumstances. (Note: there may be more than one shooter.)
- If the shooter leaves your area and you are able to escape, leave the area immediately. If unable to escape, call 911 and give an update. Do not touch anything in the area.

When you encounter the police during an active incident, keep the following in mind:

- Remain calm and patient for the duration to prevent interference with police activities. This may take a long time.
- When you encounter police, keep your hands empty and in plain view at all times. Do not speak to the officers until they speak to you.
- Do not respond to commands unless you are certain they are issued by a police officer. Unknown or unfamiliar voices may be the shooters' method of giving false assurances.
- Be calm, keep your hands in plain view. If an officer points a firearm at you, try to remain calm. Do not make any movements that might cause the officer to mistake your actions for a threat.
- If you are evacuating, carry nothing that could be mistaken for a weapon.

Campus Communications

In case of emergency, Saint Michael's College has established plans for rapid dissemination of information to the campus community through a number of methods including text messaging, voicemail and e-mail. Emergency notifications will contain announcements, instructions and updates on incidents.