

Huntington University Active Shooter Protocol

An active shooter is a person who is 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 method to their selection of victims. These dynamic situations evolve quickly and are usually over in 5 – 10 minutes. This demands immediate deployment of law-enforcement resources to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to innocent victims. Faculty, staff and students must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation. The Huntington University Police Department advocates preparedness for this type of incident and pro-actively instructs members on the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Escape) principle of responding to an active shooter. Below are guidelines for those who may be caught in an active shooter situation and a description of how to react and what to expect from responding officers.

NOTE: An individual must use his/her own discretion during an active shooter event as to whether he/she chooses to run to safety or remain in place.

ALICE

"ALICE" is an acronym for 5 steps you can utilize in order to increase your chances of surviving a surprise attack by an Active Shooter. It is important to remember that the "ALICE" response does not follow a set of actions you "shall, must, will" do when confronted with an Active Shooter. Your survival is paramount in this situation. Deal with known information and don't worry about unknowns. You may use only 1 or 2 parts of the response plan or you may have to utilize all 5. In this type of incident, your perception is the reality. You will be deciding the appropriate action to take.

1) Alert- Can be anything.

- Gunfire
- Witness
- PA Announcement
- Campus alert system

2) Lockdown- This is a semi-secure starting point from which you will make survival decisions. If you decide not to evacuate, secure the room.

- Lock the door.
- Cover any windows in the door, if possible
- Tie down the door, if possible, using belts, purse straps, shoe laces, etc.
- Barricade the door with anything available (desks, chairs, etc.)
- Look for alternate escape routes (windows, other doors)
- Call 911
- Move out of the doorway in case gunfire comes through
- Silence or place cell phones on vibrate
- Once secured, do not open the door for anyone. Police will enter the room when the situation is over.
- Gather weapons (coffee cups, chairs, books, pens, etc.) and mentally prepare to defend yourself or others.

- Put yourself in position to surprise the active shooter should they enter the room.

3) **Inform-** Using any means necessary to pass on real-time information.

- Given in plain language
- Can be derived from 911 calls, video surveillance, etc.
- Who, what, where, when and how information
- Can be used by people in the area or who may come into it to make common sense decisions
- Can be given by “Flash Alerts”, PA Announcements or Police Radio speakers

4) **Counter-** This is the use of simple, proactive techniques should you be confronted by the Active Shooter.

- Anything can be a weapon
- Throws things at the shooters head to disrupt their aim
- Create as much noise as possible
- Attack in a group (swarm)
- Grab the shooters limbs and head and take them to the ground and hold them there
- Fight dirty-bite, kick, scratch, gouge eyes, etc.
- Run around the room and create chaos
- If you have control of the shooter, call 911 and tell the police where you are and listen to their commands when officers arrive on scene.

5) **Evacuate-** Remove yourself from the danger zone as quickly as possible.

- Decide if you can safely evacuate
- Run in a zigzag pattern as fast as you can
- Do not stop running until you are far away from the area
- Bring something to throw with you in case you would encounter the Active Shooter
- Consider if the fall from a window will kill you
- Break out windows and attempt to quickly clear glass from the frame
- Consider using belts, clothing or other items as an improvised rope to shorten the distance you would fall
- Hang by your hands from the window ledge to shorten your drop
- Attempt to drop into shrubs, mulch or grass to lessen the chance of injury
- Do not attempt to drive from the area