

RUN HIDE FIGHT

ACTIVE SHOOTER ON CAMPUS
KNOW YOU CAN SURVIVE

You may never encounter an active shooter on a UBC campus. Even so, it could happen—either here or elsewhere.

To ensure you are prepared to respond to an active shooter on campus, UBC has developed a workshop and materials to provide you with the best information available.

This sheet describes how you can prepare to take the actions necessary to protect yourself in an active shooter situation.

PREPARING IS YOUR BEST PROTECTION

You can make a difference in an active shooter situation by simply imagining how to stay safe where you are. Ask yourself “What if...?” Where are the exits? Do the doors lock? Where would be a good place to hide? What would make a good barricade? What would make a good weapon? This kind of thinking is helpful in preparing for all kinds of emergencies, wherever you may go. Experts recommend three courses of action to help you avoid harm in an active shooter situation:

RUN (GET OUT)

Getting out is by far the best option. If you believe you can escape safely—get out. If you hear something that could be gunshots, don’t wait—get out.

To prepare, it’s a good idea to stop and think about how you could escape from your classroom, study space, or office.

HIDE

Hide if you don’t know exactly where the shooting is happening or it’s too late to escape safely. Get behind a lockable door if you can. Barricade the door. Improvise with any object you can to prevent someone from entering.

Once you are hidden, stay below window level, silence your phone, turn off the lights, and stay quiet. If your spot is secure, be prepared to remain there until the police come to you with the all clear.

FIGHT

Fighting is your absolute last resort. You would only confront an active shooter if you somehow became trapped in a space with no escape.

Active shooters typically don’t respond to reason so you must assume they intend to harm you.

Find an object you can use to strike the shooter with; trip them with a chair; be as aggressive as you can; do anything you can to stop them.

You will need to decide if you can do this. Remember, this is your decision.



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KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM OTHERS

In an active shooter situation people may be moving and reacting in ways you may not expect. And they happen fast—typical active shooter events evolve quickly and are over in 10 to 15 minutes. For these reasons, it's important that beyond run, hide, fight you understand what others may be doing.

THE ACTIVE SHOOTER

An active shooter is a person actively shooting at people, usually at random, in a confined or populated area. In most cases, these people use firearms or other weapons and there is no pattern or method to their actions. Active shooters typically don't respond to reason so you must assume they intend to harm you.

THE POLICE

You might be surprised by the actions of the police in an active shooter situation. First, they may not have time to help you when they first arrive, as their top priority will be to find and stop the shooter. Second, the police might not know exactly what the shooter looks like so they have to consider you as a possible threat. For that reason, if you encounter the police: don't run toward them; remain calm; keep your hands visible; follow instructions.

WHAT UBC WOULD DO	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
People in the surrounding buildings may be instructed to stay where they are until they are advised it is safe to move by the police or UBC	Do not move from your location if you are instructed to stay where you are by the police or UBC
Instructions, alerts, and updates will be sent out through social media, campus digital signage, UBC Alert, and ubc.ca/emergency	Check social media, digital signage, UBC Alert, and ubc.ca/emergency for alerts and updates
UBC will send out the all-clear message through these channels when advised by police	Follow any police and/or UBC instructions carefully. Wait for the all clear message before leaving a secure location
Information about where to go for support services after the threat has ended will be sent out by broadcast email and through social media	Seek support or counseling services if necessary after the incident

Important note:

This is a disturbing subject and may be upsetting to think about. If you would like to talk to someone about what you have read, consider consulting UBC's health or counseling services.

LEARN MORE

This fact sheet is a companion piece to UBC's Active shooter Preparedness Workshop which includes a screening of the video: *Shooter on Campus: Know You Can Survive*. To sign up for a workshop and learn about important resources available to you, go to rms.ubc.ca/activeshooter



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