Surviving an Active Shooter

It depends on YOU
Could it happen at Allegany? YES

• It’s a low frequency event
  • Colleges and K-12 are the safest places in America
  • Colleges are 7.5% of the total incidents over past 13 years
  • It’s easier to get hit by lightning than experience an A/Shooter
  • If it happens, it’s devastating

• But it’s a **high-impact event**
• It changes the college and community forever
50 Incidents in 2016/2017
The 50 incidents resulted in 943 casualties (221 people killed and 722 people wounded, excluding the shooters).

- 58 killed and 489 wounded during the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2017.
- 49 killed and 53 wounded at Pulse, a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in 2016.
- 26 killed and 20 wounded at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, in 2017.
How does this compare to other death rates?

In 2017,

- In Maryland, 555 people died in MV Collisions
- Nationally, 37,133 died in MV Collisions
- In Baltimore alone, over 300 died in homicide cases
- Nationally, over 80,000 died from the flu (estimated)
Some Active Threat research findings:

• There’s no common perpetrator profile

• Threat Assessment may indicate that a person is at risk, and allow for intervention (by a BIT Team)

• Others knew of the impending storm 33% of the time

• 80% were students or former students, so processes and technology did not stop them. They know how to get in.
What’s Allegany College Doing?

• IF YOU TELL US ABOUT THREATENING BEHAVIOR, the Crisis Response Team (CRT) assesses the risk and deals with the involved person:
  • Should they be separated from campus?
  • Should they be treated and evaluated before returning?
  • How best should they return, and be monitored?
• CRT acts on your reports and Campus Safety Incident Reports
• YOUR reports are YOUR witness statements describing the incident and your concerns
Can Campus Safety & Security keep me safe?

• Active Shooter incidents break out quickly and usually without warning
• If you call 911 or (240)321-5799, help will respond immediately
• **YOU need to act without delay**
• Campus Safety and Security will:
  • Help you get out as they enter
  • Go directly to the threat
  • Direct the police and fire responders to the scene quickly
  • Confirm the incident and send out Alert messaging
  • Engage the Emergency Operations Center if needed (post-incident)
Allegany’s Alert Messaging (e2Campus)

- Make sure your contact info is up-to-date
- During class, keep your phone on vibrate, not silent. Place in front of you, face down, during instruction
- If you hear concerning noises before any other alert, try to investigate, or look at your phone for more info
- Usual alert order:
  - e2Campus (text alerts)
  - PA system (in-building)
  - Siren Alert (for exterior use only, usually weather)
This training is all about YOU

• Act quickly - **do something**. Don’t hesitate to act
• The incident will likely be over before police arrive
• **RUN if told to Run** - don’t delay for a second
• Use your sense of fear - if the situation gives you the creeps, it’s for a reason. RESPOND!
Your likely response -

- Tunnel vision, Auditory Exclusion
- Time Dilation (things moving in slow motion)
- Out-of Body Experience - can’t believe it’s happening
- Reduced Motor Skills
Denial

• In The Station Nightclub fire in 2003, when Great White was performing, the pyrotechnics started a fire. People did not want to believe it was happening,

• And they **hesitated**.

• The rush to the main entrance caused a panic and a stampede
Deliberation

• You don’t have to leave by the same entrance you came in. Check for EXIT signs
• Use WILLPOWER to overcome your fear and hesitation
• Breathe through your nose and exhale slowly. It slows your heart rate temporarily
• Don’t get scared, get MAD!
Decision

• Asses your situation, and make DECISIONS
• Is it time to Run, Hide, or Fight?

• Take control of your class or office - give direction

• Use your command voice - you have the authority!
Influences on the incident severity

- Number of deaths - *How quickly the officers arrive & confront the shooter*
- Number of deaths - *How the citizens respond, and take appropriate action*
- Availability of *places to hide*
- *Time of police arrival* - averages 3-5 minutes, THEN they have to go to the scene of the threat
In the end, your safety is up to you
Take Charge!

- Many of our students are transient
- We don’t see them on a regular basis, and they may not dorm here
- Half will react positively, and half will freak out
- YOU must be the class leader, the shepherd
- YOU must shout orders, and make sure everyone follows
- DO NOT allow one person to get you killed
RUN

• **Escape quickly** - the further away the better
• Do not collect in the parking lot
• Note EXITS when entering the building
• Don’t wait for confirmation of your fears
• Take others with you, but don’t wait for them
• Don’t take anything but your phone
• Act as directed, your hands over your head
• Provide information when asked by the police
• If he can’t see you, he can’t hurt you
• Plan areas to hide in when you arrive in a building
• Know HOW to lock your door
• Lock or barricade the door quickly. He does not want to climb over stacked furniture to get to you, or get trapped.
• Turn out the lights, computer screen, PPT projector and cell phone screens. Absolute darkness!
• Stay silent! Disable phone ringers
Consider the Night Lock!
Grab the Night Lock key....
Insert the “Key” in the door and floor plates...
Swing-in or Swing-out, the door is LOCKED
Turn off the lights and HIDE.
FIGHT!

- Grab the weapon and don’t let go
- Self-defense is a recognized American right
- It is supported by CCC and DHS
- Work as a team - decide who does what. Act decisively
- Take advantage of breaks in the action and act!
- Any disruption to his plan buys you more time
Control the weapon, not the person
Point it away, or to the ground
Use gravity to your advantage

• If you push downward or fall to the ground, the attacker cannot aim and fire the weapon.
• Use your weight to fall to the ground, so the weapon is out of play.
• YOU are no longer the target: the struggle is over the weapon
Virginia Tech case study

- 32 students and staff lost their lives
- The suspect chained the outer doors shut, and put a bomb-threat note on the doors
- Suspect went to the second floor of Norris Hall, and started shooting
Room by Room….

• #206 - shooting started there. 92% of occupants shot
• #211 - 911 called. Door blocked with desk. 100% of occupants shot
• #207 - occupants shot, then the shooter left. Students used their bodies to block the door. More shots fired, no one hit.
• #204 - teacher shot and killed while holding the door closed. Students escaped through windows. Teacher was a Holocaust survivor
• #205 - Students had time to react. Door was blocked by large desk. Shots fired, no one hit.
You are not helpless

• What YOU do matters
  • Time and action makes the difference
  • Consider alternatives
  • Act “on the fly”
  • Convince others to react also

• Panic is the enemy - why?
Preparing for the Police Response

• **Officers may be in uniform, or in plainclothes**
• Look for a badge, uniform, insignia, and official demeanor
• They may have something on to keep themselves safe from an accidental shooting by another officer
When the police arrive

• Priority 1 - confront the shooter
• Priority 2 - medical care, treating the injured
• Priority 3 - evacuating the survivors
• Priority 4 - securing the crime scene
What you should do

• Follow commands exactly
• Show your hands as directed
• If told not to move, DO NOT MOVE
Medical Issues

• There will be an EMS delay - why?
• People need help, so jump in if it’s safe
• Take CPR and first aid training
  • Use a real or makeshift tourniquet if necessary to save a life
  • Get Stop-the-Bleed training
In the end,

• It all depends on YOU,

• And how YOU prepare for and react to a crisis.

• Use your Gift of Fear....

  • Allegany Safety & Security: Ext. 555