Plan, Prepare, React:
Active Shooter Response Options for Students, Staff and Faculty

A Program Developed for the Board of Regents of The University System of Georgia
“Plan, Prepare, React” Program Objectives

• Grant funded project by the Board of Regents of The University System of Georgia
• Training program includes a ten-minute video, PowerPoint presentation and several response checklists
• Training program is intended to provide guidance and options to students, staff and faculty on how to respond during an active shooter situation
• Always consult with your campus public safety agencies or local law enforcement officials in working on active shooter response planning protocols

Use the information in this training program as a generic guide. Adherence to your local emergency plans and the use of good judgment should always guide your actions.
PowerPoint Training Objectives

- Define the term “active shooter”
- List measures that can be employed to reduce the risk an active shooter presents
- Review actions you can expect from responding law enforcement officers
Definition of an Active Shooter

• An active shooter is a person actively engaged in killing and wounding people in a populated building or area using a firearm as a weapon
• The threat is not contained and there is an immediate risk of injury or death
• Shooter may be suicidal
Mentality of Active Shooter

• Desire is to kill and injure without concern for his safety or threat of capture
• Normally has intended victims and will seek them out
• Accepts targets of opportunity while looking for intended victims
• Will continue until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other violent intervention
Major Shootings on U.S. College Campuses
1966-2008

- Simon's Rock College of Bard - NY - 1992 (2 killed)
- Northern Illinois Univ - 2008 (6 killed)
- Penn State Univ. - 1996 (1 killed)
- Case Western Reserve Univ. - 2003 (1 killed)
- Univ of Iowa - 1991 (5 killed)
- Univ of Arkansas - 2000 (2 killed)
- Univ of Texas at Austin - 1966 (14 killed)
- Univ of Texas - 2008 (3 killed)
- Louisiana Tech Coll at Baton Rouge - 2008 (3 killed)
- Louisiana State Univ - 2008 (6 killed)
- Southern Illinois Univ - 2006 (3 killed)
- Jackson State Univ - 1970 (4 killed)
- San Diago State Univ - 1996 (3 killed)
- Cal Stat Univ at Fullerson - 1976 (7 killed)
- South Carolina State Univ. - 1968 (3 killed)
- Shepherd Univ - W VA - 2006 (3)
- Appalacian School of Law - VA - 2002 (3)
- Virginia Tech - 2007 (32 killed)
- Univ of Arizona - 2002 (3 killed)
Major Shootings on American College Campuses

Since 1966, only 13 incidents

Offenders:

8 Students
1 Employee
1 Alumnus
1 Father of a student
1 Former student
1 Outsider (no connection to the college)

Source: FBI, National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, Behavioral Analysis Unit
University of Texas Campus Shooting

- August 1, 1966
- Charles Whitman – Student
- 14 People Killed, 31 Injured
- Shots came from the observation deck of the Administration Building
- Police shot and killed Whitman
California State University at Fullerton

- July 12, 1976
- Edward Charles Allaway - Custodian
- 7 killed, 2 wounded
- University Library
- Used a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle
- Allaway surrendered at a nearby hotel
Appalachian School of Law

- January 16, 2002
- Peter Odighizuwa – Former student
- 3 killed, 3 wounded
- Used a handgun in the Dean’s office
- Subdued by several students
Virginia Tech

- April 16, 2007
- Seung-Hui Cho – Student
- 32 Killed, 23 wounded
- Two incident locations with a time delay
- Used two handguns/locked building
- Cho committed suicide
Northern Illinois University

- February 14, 2008
- Steve Kazmierczak – Former graduate student
- 6 killed and 18 wounded
- Incident occurred in a large auditorium/lecture hall
- Used handguns and a shotgun concealed in a guitar case
- Kazmierczak committed suicide
K-12 Schools vs. University Setting

Unlike most K-12 public schools, college and university facilities and classrooms typically do not feature:
1. Two-way intercom systems in buildings and classrooms
2. A centralized administrative office
3. Visitor sign in areas or procedures
4. Access control technologies
SWAT Response versus Rapid Deployment

• Columbine High School Shooting brought about a change in law enforcement tactics
• Losses can be mitigated with proper training and education and rapid deployment
Personal Emergency Planning

- Always be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Mentally rehearse how you would react in various types of emergency situations
- Be familiar with two exits whenever you enter a building or room
- Ask about building emergency action plans
- Program local and campus emergency numbers into your cell phone
- Participate in campus emergency notification systems
Your Options in an Active Shooter Incident

- Escape
- Hide/Barricade
- Fight Back
Escape

- If it is safe to do so RUN!
- Drop and leave your personal belongings (books, book bag, purse)
- Exit the immediate area
- Proceed cautiously as there may be more than one shooter
- Keep your hands visible and not in your pockets
- Call 911 or your campus police and provide as much information as you can as soon as it is safe to do so
Outdoor Areas/Hallways

- If you are located outside a building, seek cover immediately
- Put something between you and the shooter
- If you are in a hallway, escape out the nearest exit if it is safe to do so
- If any doubt exists, find a safe area and barricade the door with any available items
Hide/Barricade

- Locate the nearest classroom/closet/office with a door
- Lock or barricade the door with any available items
- Block or cover windows to the hallway and close blinds
- Turn off the room lights
- Call 911 or campus public safety
- Silence your cell phone and other electronics in the room
- Place signs in exterior windows so responders will know where you are located
- After securing the room, position people out of sight as best as possible
- Look for possible window exits if you are on or near the ground floor
Fight Back

- Fight back only as a last resort and when your life is in imminent danger
- Organize others and formulate a plan
- Throw books, chairs, book bags, etc. at the shooter
- Overpower the shooter and disarm him
- Don’t be a victim!
Assisting Other People

• Call 911 or campus law enforcement as soon as possible
• Attempt to calm others down and plan options should the shooter enter your area
• Do not let others in the room if you do not feel it is safe to do so or if you cannot identify/recognize the person or official
• Attempts to rescue people should only be made if it can be done without further endangering the persons inside the secure area
• Assist injured people in secure areas with available equipment and supplies (advise 911 of injured persons)
What Information Should Be Reported to 911?

- Your Specific Location (Building, floor, room number)
- Number of people at your location, number of injuries and type of injuries
- Suspect(s) Information:
  - Location (if known)
  - Number of shooters
  - Name of shooter (if known)
  - Overall description (physical/clothing)
  - Type of weapons (rifle, shotgun or handgun)
  - Explosives
  - Backpack or other items
  - Other important information

Emergency lines will likely be busy so continue calling to report the incident as you may have critical information first responders may need.
How Will Law Enforcement Respond?

- Law enforcement will immediately respond to area and form a team to enter the building
- Law enforcement’s goal is to locate, contain, and stop the shooter
- Law enforcement will bypass injured people initially to locate the shooter(s)
- Stay inside a secure room until instructed to exit
Your Response When Law Enforcement Arrives

- Remain in place until instructed to move
- Follow officers’ instructions
- Do not have any items in your hands
- Immediately raise your hands and do not present a threat to the responding officers
- Avoid quick movements around the officers or try to hug or hold on to them
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
- Limit your questions to officers regarding the suspect, others in the building or other incident information
Quick Review

• Have a plan
• Take immediate action
• Find a secure area or run
• Calm, reassure, and quiet others
• Call 911 or campus police
• Treat injured people if it is safe to do so
Additional Resource Information

• Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center – U.S. Department of Education
  http://rems.ed.gov/index.cfm

• United States Department of Homeland Security
  www.ready.gov/ and www.dhs.gov/

• American Red Cross
  http://www.redcross.org/
Questions?

- For additional information contact your campus police department or local law enforcement agency.