

# San Diego State University Active Shooter / Violent Intruder Protocol

This information is provided to assist SDSU Faculty, Staff, and Students in making the best possible decisions in the event of an active shooter or violent intruder event.

## BACKGROUND

In light of recent shooting events both at the high school and university levels, many institutions have implemented a “Shelter in Place” protocol in the event of an active shooter event. Evaluation of this response suggests that sheltering in place may not be the best response to such an incident, and this protocol is designed to offer additional guidance.

The emphasis of this protocol is the preservation of life and is based upon the A.L.I.C.E. program of response.

**A**lert  
**L**ockdown  
**I**nform  
**C**ounter  
**E**scape

## DEFINITIONS

Active Shooter – A suspect is actively engaged in violent behavior with a firearm against community members and is seeking to injure or kill as many victims as possible within a condensed period of time prior to the arrival of law enforcement. The suspect(s) actions may include shooting into an area where it is reasonably expected that people could be struck by the suspect(s) fire. These situations leave little or no time for proper planning and normally require law enforcement to take immediate action to end the threat.

Violent Intruder – A suspect is actively engaged in violent behavior without a firearm against community members and is seeking to injure or kill victims within a condensed period of time and prior to the arrival of law enforcement. The suspect may be armed with a weapon such as a knife, instead of a firearm.

## RESPONSE

In any situation, quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that students, vendors, or visitors are likely to follow the lead of faculty and staff members during an active shooter/violent intruder event.

## **A**lert

Be aware of your surroundings and any unusual activity.

Take note of emergency notifications (text messages, emails, announcements, etc.).

## **L**ockdown

If you are in a classroom or office, stay there, lock the door and evaluate the following:

- What is the location of the suspect(s)?
- Can you evacuate the location? If so, evacuate. Consider alternate exits such as windows.
- If the door does not lock, use heavy furniture to barricade the door.
- Silence any sources of noise (cell phones, radios, televisions).
- Hide behind large items that can stop bullets if they are fired in your direction.

## **I**nform

If safe to do so, call 9-1-1 to notify police of incident.

If you cannot speak, leave the line open to allow the dispatcher to listen.

## **C**ounter

As a last resort, and only if your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt or incapacitate the suspect(s) by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her.
- Throwing items and improvising weapons (textbooks, laptops, lamps).
- Yelling.

## **E**scape

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the location. Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Evacuate whether or not others agree to follow.
- Leave personal belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible and empty.
- Follow instructions of any law enforcement.

These are guidelines and are not all inclusive, but if understood and followed up with periodic reminders and training, they can increase your chances of surviving an active shooter/violent intruder incident.