

Illinois State University Police Department
Emergency Response Procedure

Active Shooter

Active Shooters

An active shooter is a suspect that causes death and/or serious bodily injury through the use of a firearm. It involves a dynamic situation that usually evolves rapidly, and demands immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to terminate a life-threatening situation. Immediate deployment will involve the first officers on the scene taking aggressive action to find and stop the killing. The goal is to contain and isolate the individual with the gun, and to facilitate the safe release of any hostages or threatened persons.

Follow the steps below:

- As a general rule, DO NOT approach the person with the weapon
- Move immediately out the area to a safe location if you can
- Notify others of the danger as you leave the area
- Call 9-1-1 or 8-8631 and inform them of the situation
- Do not reenter the area, and take steps to prevent others from doing so until authorities arrive
- Once you are in a safe area, do not leave unless a police officer escorts you out
- Remain as calm and as quiet as you can
- Do not attempt to rescue others unless you have been trained, or can reach them in a safe manner.
- Above all, do not endanger yourself.

Once notified of an active shooter, campus or local police will likely be the first responders on the scene. Police are trained to respond to an active shooting incident by proceeding to the origin of audible gunfire. This may be in an open area such as a Parking Lot or inside a building. The police will move quickly into the affected area until the shooter is located and stopped or is no longer a threat to life or safety. If you are wounded or with someone who may be wounded, expect the officers to bypass you in their search as they must find the shooter and eliminate the threat.

To assist police, please remain calm and patient during this time, to prevent any interference with police operations. If you know where the suspect is, have his description, tell the police. Rescue teams will follow shortly to aid you and others.

If shooter enters your class or office:

- There is no set procedure in this situation. If possible call 911, or dial 8-8631 and talk to the police dispatcher. If you cannot speak, leave the line open so police can hear what is going on.

- Use common sense. If you are hiding and flight is impossible, attempts to negotiate with the individual may be successful.
- Attempting to overcome the individual with force is a last resort that should only be initiated in extreme circumstances.
- If the shooter exits your area and you are able to escape, leave the area immediately or barricade yourself inside using desks, chairs, or other heavy objects.
- Do not count on walls or doors to be sufficient protection from bullets.

Note: The above information was taken from the **Campus Emergency Operations Planning Guidelines** from the *International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)*