

Illinois State University Police Department  
Emergency Response Procedure

**Hostile Intruder in a Residence Hall**

**Hostile Intruder(s) in a Residence Hall**

When a hostile person(s) is actively causing deadly harm or the imminent threat of deadly harm within the residence hall, we recommend the following procedures be implemented:

- Lock yourself in your room.
- If communication is available, call 9-1-1 or 8-8631
- If away from your room, join others in a room that can be locked.
- Do not stay in the open hall.
- Do not sound the fire alarm. A fire alarm would signal the occupants in the rooms to evacuate the building and thus place them in potential harm as they attempted to exit.
- Barricade yourself in your room with desks, beds, or anything you can push against the door.
- Lock your window and close blinds or curtains.
- Stay away from the window.
- Turn all lights and audio equipment off.
- Try to stay calm and be as quiet as possible.
- If you are caught in the open such as hallways and lounge areas, you must decide what you are going to do. This is a very crucial time and can possibly mean life or death depending on your actions.
  1. You can try to hide, but make sure it is a well-hidden space or you may be found as the intruder moves through the dorm looking for more victims.
  2. If you think you can safely make it out of the building by running, do so. If you decide to run, do not run in a straight line. Keep any objects you can between you and the hostile person (s) while in the building. Once outside, do not run in a straight line.
  3. If the person(s) are causing death or serious physical injury to others and you are unable to run or hide, you may choose to play dead if other victims are around you.
  4. The last option you have if caught in an open area in the dorm maybe to fight back. This is dangerous, but depending on your situation, this could be your last option.
  5. If you are caught by the intruder and are not going to fight back, obey all commands and do not look the intruder in the eyes.
  6. Once the police arrive, obey all commands. This may involve your being handcuffed or made to put your hands in the air. This is done for safety reasons, and once circumstances are evaluated by the police, they will give you further directions to follow.

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