

Active Threat

Active threat situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Because they are often over within minutes, and sometimes before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active threat situation. The following steps are adapted from the Department of Homeland Security's [Active Shooter: Preparedness Resources](#).

Evacuate (Run)

If there is a safe and accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises.

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Do not risk your life to go back for personal belongings.
- If it is safe to do so, help others escape.
- If possible, prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter might be.
- Keep your hands visible as you evacuate.
- Follow the instructions of any police officers on scene.
- Do not attempt to move wounded people.
- Call 911 when you are safe.
- Text friends and co-workers/supervisors to let them know you are safe.

Take Cover (Hide)

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the Active Threat is least likely to find you. Your hiding place should be out of view and provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.

- Lock the door.
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture.
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager.
- Turn off any source of noise such as radios or televisions.
- Hide behind large items such as heavy cabinets or desks.
- Remain quiet. Do not answer a ringing phone as this would signal your presence in the room.
- If a shooter could be outdoors, stay away from windows

Take Action (Fight)

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active threat by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her.
- Throwing items and improvising weapons.
- Yelling.
- Committing to your actions.

University Hall: Emergency Lockdown System

In addition to dozens of security cameras, University Hall has numerous Emergency Lockdown Buttons located throughout the building in classrooms and auditoriums. Properly used, they can help save lives. For more information, review the [University Hall Lockdown System Brochure](#).

On-Campus Training

Be sure to sign up for Active Threat training, offered by UMass Boston Police and the Office of Emergency Management. The training involves a brief video and provides participants with the opportunity to ask questions directly to UMass Boston Police Officers. For more information, please call 617.287.5104.

More Information

For more information, please review the helpful video, [Run Hide Fight](#), produced by the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management.

Take this [FEMA training course](#) to learn how you can best prepare for and respond to an active shooter situation.

If you have questions or want to arrange an in-person training session on campus, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 617.287.5104 or [UMass Boston Police](#) at 617.287.7799.