

## Active Shooter Protocols (1)

When it comes to Active Shooter Protocols, we see a distinct difference between instructions given by U.S. authorities and institutions and the local French equivalencies. Both official protocols are based on 3 steps, but the French protocol does not encourage any attempt to neutralize the attacker(s).

The **French** protocol recommends these three steps:

- **S'échapper (escape)**
- **Se cacher (hide)**
- **Alerter (alert)**

This website is the main source for information concerning these protocols, videos, posters to print out, and handbooks to consult:

<https://lc.cx/43a9>

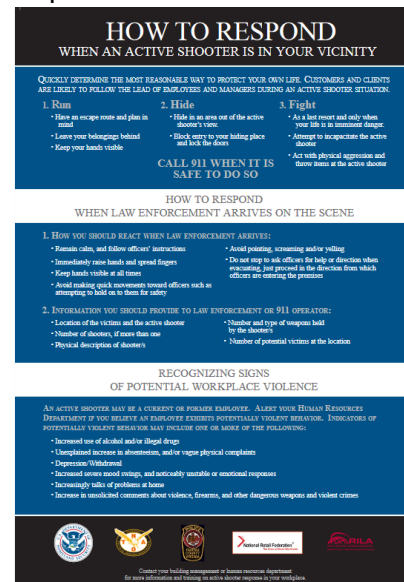


The **U.S.** Active Shooter protocol recommends these three steps:

- **Run (s'échapper)**
- **Hide (se cacher)**
- **Fight (agir)**

This website is the official information source on Active Shooters distributed by U.S. Homeland Security. You can access many printable resources and videos here:

<https://lc.cx/Jcqb>



As you create your institution's Action Shooter Protocol for your programs based in France, you may want to use others' work as inspiration. APUAF member institutions have crafted some fine examples of protocols, and below you will see some excerpts from some of these documents:

## A. Boston University

### HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Professors & students are likely to follow the lead of the Director or managers during an active shooter situation.

**EVACUATE** • Have an escape route and plan in mind • Leave your belongings behind • Keep your hands visible

**HIDE OUT** • Hide in an area out of the active shooter's view. • Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors

**TAKE ACTION** • As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. • Attempt to incapacitate the active shooter • Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter • Call 112 when it is safe to do so

### HOW YOU SHOULD REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

• Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions • Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling • Immediately raise hands and spread fingers • Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises • Keep hands visible at all times • Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as attempting to hold on to them for safety

### INFORMATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 112 OPERATOR

• Location of the active shooter • Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s • Number of shooters, if more than one • Number of potential victims at the location • Physical description of shooter/s

### RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF POTENTIAL WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

An active shooter may be a current or former employee. Alert your human resources department if you believe an employee exhibits potentially violent behaviors. Indicators of potentially violent behavior may include one or more of the following:

• Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs • Unexplained increase in absenteeism, and/or vague physical complaints • Depression/Withdrawal • Increased severe mood swings, and noticeably unstable or emotional responses • Increasingly talks of problems at home • Increase in unsolicited comments about violence, firearms, and other dangerous weapons and violent crimes

Pocket card info: <https://lc.cx/JcTH>

## **B. St. John's University**

### **OUTSIDE SHOOTING INCIDENT**

- Immediately run into a building, enter a room and lock the door, if possible.
- Drop anything you are carrying that may slow you down.
- Use a tree, vehicle, mailbox, etc. for cover and concealment from the gunman.

#### **What is the difference between cover and concealment?**

**Concealment** is something that will block you from the view of the gunman. Soft wall cubicles and desks may conceal but provide no substantial ballistic protection.

**Cover** is something of substantial thickness and weight that will stop a bullet. Inside, office furniture and equipment such as vending machines, copy machines and file cabinets can stop many types of bullets. Outside, hide behind a tree, vehicles, fire hydrants or landscape stones.

- If you are caught out in the open get on the ground and lay flat, do not move until the gunman has left the area.
- As soon as possible **call emergency services** and tell the police where you are and if you need any medical attention.
- Provide a detailed description of the assailant and the direction last observed traveling.

### **INSIDE SHOOTING INCIDENT**

- Stay and shelter in place or get to a room that can be locked or barricaded.
- Reinforce the door with furniture, desks, file cabinets, tables, chairs or the largest and heaviest items available. Tie the door shut, if necessary.
- Turn off the lights and computer monitors, close the blinds and cover door windows with an opaque cover.
- Keep as quiet as possible. Stay low near a wall away from the door and windows. Place your back against an impenetrable wall, e.g., brick or cinderblock, if possible.

#### **If you are caught inside a classroom with students...**

- Recognize you are the authority figure – students will look to you for guidance
- Barricade the classroom door
- Turn off the lights
- Pull the shades
- Inform students to remain quiet
- Silence all cell phones and laptops
- Stay away from windows and doors
- Position students against a wall that provides ballistic cover (preferably concrete not sheetrock)
- Do not open the door to any voice commands even if you recognize the voice.
- Wait until you are sure the Police are present before opening the door. If unsure, call emergency services to confirm that law enforcement officers have arrived.

### SHOULD YOU TAKE ACTION?

- As a last resort and only when is no other option left.
- Attempt to incapacitate the active shooter.
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter, Use heavy objects such as a coat rack, chairs, books, hot liquids etc. Chemical Fire Extinguishers are also a good option.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN POLICE ARRIVE

- Follow the instructions of the police officers exactly.
- Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Do not touch anything at the crime scene.
- Avoid making quick movements towards the officers.
- Do not grab onto the officers at any time.
- Avoid screaming or yelling!
- Be prepared for officers to bypass you and immediately engage the shooter\*
- Remain on the Scene
- Do not leave campus until you are instructed to do so by the police or Public Safety personnel. Remember you may be a witness to a crime and may be required to speak with investigators.
- Stay calm: Follow these tips during an emergency and your chance of becoming a victim may be greatly reduced.

## C. Other resources:

### Yale University:

<https://lc.cx/Jcq8>

### The Ohio State University:

<https://lc.cx/JcqX>

### Concordia University College of Alberta:

<https://lc.cx/JcqB>

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#### (1) Contacts APUAF:

Alexandra Mitchell (CEA Paris) - [Alexandra.Mitchell@GoWithCEA.com](mailto:Alexandra.Mitchell@GoWithCEA.com)

Renée Pontbriand (BU Paris) - [reneep@bu.edu](mailto:reneep@bu.edu)

Farida Khatchadourian (Saint John University Paris) - [khatchaf@stjohns.edu](mailto:khatchaf@stjohns.edu)