McMaster University
Active Shooter/Threat Incidents
Training Objectives

• Define the term “active shooter”

• Understand what to expect from responding law enforcement officers

• Understand what you can do to protect yourself and others from an active shooter
The Active Shooter/Threat

- An assailant causing death and serious injury
- The threat is not contained
- The assailant may not necessarily be using a firearm, and the same principles apply to any “active” threat, not just a shooter
Identifying and Preventing Potential Situations at School

• Be aware of people exhibiting any of the following:
  – Writing about death and killing, out of context
  – Drastic changes in personality or behavior
  – Isolation, depression
  – Unusual change in grades or work performance

• If you are aware of someone exhibiting these behaviours, refer to the following for more information. Click on the “Persons of Concern” tab.

  http://security.mcmaster.ca/campus_emergencies_guide.html
Active Shooter Incidents

Based on Past Incidents, we understand that:

• Active shooter incidents may seem spontaneous and victims may not know they are targets until they are attacked
• Active shooter incidents occur in target rich environments, and from the outset, suspects rapidly take human life
• The shooter may or may not have specific intended victims
• The shooter will continue to move throughout the building/area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention
Campus Response
GET OUT, HIDE, FIGHT

• McMaster Security Services will Alert the Community by a variety of means
• If it is safe for you to do so, you should get out of the affected area/building. GET OUT.
• If you cannot escape, the safest place for you to be is inside a secure room. HIDE.
• It is important for you to convey to others that help is on the way. Remain inside the secure area.
• If you are confronted and cannot escape – you may have to FIGHT.
Law Enforcement Response

• McMaster University Special Constables and Hamilton Police have adopted procedures and developed plans based on Internationally accepted best practices.
• Change in tactics by law enforcement since 1999
• Police engage active threat immediately using “Immediate Rapid Deployment” tactics, instead of attempting to contain scene and negotiating.
Law Enforcement Response

• McMaster Security Services has direct radio communications with Hamilton Police for emergencies such as this.

• Hamilton Police will respond immediately to the area, assisted/guided by McMaster Special Constables

• The goal of Law Enforcement is to locate and stop the shooter. **Injured people may not be assisted immediately, or evacuated until after this is accomplished.**
Law Enforcement Response

• **Evacuation**
  - Once the threat is eliminated, Police and McMaster Special Constables will begin treatment and evacuation of the injured
  - Safety corridors will be established. This may be time consuming
  - Remain in secure areas until instructed otherwise
  - You may be escorted out of the building by law enforcement personnel
  - **You may be searched, and you may be instructed to keep your hands on your head as you are evacuated**
Alerts and Notification

• Campus wide outdoor warning system

• Emergency messages on LCD Screens and campus computers

• Text Message and Email alerts to entire campus community
Outdoor Siren Alert System

• Siren Alert System

• Installed in 2008, and has been expanded to include MUSC, DBAC and MDCL.

• Sample siren tone
LCD Screens

• LCD Screens in student residences and many other campus buildings
Desktop Alerts

- Public computers on campus are running a program to pick up the same alerts that are shown on the Digital signage in buildings.

- “Alertus” is available for anybody to download for free for their own computer.

- Alerts will only display on your computer when you are connected to the McMaster network.

- [http://security.mcmaster.ca/alertus.html](http://security.mcmaster.ca/alertus.html)
Mass Notification System

• McMaster Alertus App. Available for smartphones and tablets from the App Store.
• Receives emergency alerts simultaneously with the Alertus alerts on LCD screens and desktops.
Your Role

• If the situation is happening near you, please follow the safest course of action as follows:
  – GET OUT. If you think a dangerous situation is developing, or you are alerted about a situation, do not wait. Get Out.
  – HIDE. If it is too late and you cannot get out, Hide. Find the safest place you can, and make it safer.
    • Lock the door
    • Close the blinds
    • Barricade the door
    • Stay away from the door and windows
  – FIGHT. Fighting is your last resort. You would only confront a violent or armed intruder if you somehow became trapped in a space with no escape. A violent or armed intruder typically doesn’t respond to reason so you must assume they intend to harm you. Find an object you can use to strike the shooter with; trip them with a chair; be as aggressive as you can; do anything you can to stop them.
How to respond to an **ACTIVE THREAT** on campus:

**If a safe path is available, GET OUT**
- Do not hesitate; get out
- Leave your belongings
- Discourage others from entering the area
- Call Security when you are safe

**If you can’t get out safely, HIDE**
- Stay out of attacker’s view and be quiet
- Silence your phone
- Lock/barricade doors
- Call Security if it is safe to do so

**As a last resort, FIGHT**
- Fight with all-out commitment
- Be physically aggressive
- Use improvised weapons
- Fight to incapacitate the attacker

For training information and video, visit: security.mcmaster.ca
Emergency – Contact Security. Dial “88” from campus phones
(905) 525-9140 ext. 24291, (905) 522-4135 (direct)
Unsecured Areas

• Escape is probably your best option.

• If you find yourself in an open area, immediately seek any available protection.
Nothing to Hide Behind?

Stay Low and Move Fast
HIDE

- If you are unable to get out. Find a safe place, and make it safer.

- Secure the immediate area – classroom, bathroom, or office

- Classrooms are in the process of having locks installed

- Block the door using whatever is available - desks, file cabinets, books, other furniture...

- If the assailant enters your room and leaves, lock/barricade the door behind them.
LOCK THE DOOR if you can, or improvise...
and/or BARRICADE THE DOOR,
Stay out of view
PREPARE TO FIGHT
as a last resort
Do not unlock your area of refuge until the “All Clear” is given by Police and Security. The assailant may bang on the door and yell for help to entice you to open the door.

- Consider the safety of the masses versus the safety of a few.
- If there is any doubt about the safety of the individuals inside the room, keep the door locked. Police and Special Constables or other staff will have keys when they clear the area so there is no need for you to open the door.
- The “All Clear” will be announced via text/email notification, LCD Screens and by Police, Security and other staff members going door to door with keys.
• **Doors, Windows, Openings, and Noise**
  - Close blinds
  - Block windows
  - Turn off radios and computer monitors if necessary
  - Silence cell phones
  - Place signs in *exterior* windows to identify the location of injured persons
  - Signs can be placed in interior doors, windows, but remember that the assailant can also see these
  - After securing the room. People should be positioned out of sight and behind items that might offer additional protection - walls, desks, file cabinets, etc.
Contacting Emergency Personnel

• “911” and “88” from campus phones
  911 and 88 may be overwhelmed with calls
  – busy signal
  – multiple rings

• 905-522-4135 (direct line to campus Security)

• Assistance Phones (red poles)

• Elevator Emergency Phones
What to Report

• If you are hiding, and able to contact Security, report the following:
  – Your specific location
    • Building name
    • Office/classroom number
      – classroom doors are all marked on the upper right corner of the doorframe
  – Number of people with you
  – Injuries
    • Number of people injured
    • Types of injuries
    • Dispatcher may provide instructions on how to care for injured until medical assistance can be provided
What to Report, continued

Assailant(s)

- Specific location
- Number of assailant(s)
- Race and Gender
- Clothing color and style
- Physical features – height, weight, facial hair, glasses
- Type of weapons (rifle/shotgun/handgun/knife/bat, etc.)
- Backpack?
- Do you recognize the assailant? What’s his/her name?
- Have you heard explosions separate from gunshots?
The Aftermath

• Information and instructions will be released to the McMaster community by McMaster University Public Relations as quickly as possible
• If you are in the affected building(s)…The entire area may be treated as a crime scene
  – Once you have been evacuated you may not be permitted to retrieve items or access the crime scene
• After evacuation you will be directed to, or taken to a holding area
  – medical care, interviewing, counseling, etc.
Summary

• **Active Shooter**

• **Law enforcement response**
  – Objective is to neutralize threat
  – Evacuation after threat has ended
  – Follow up medical care, interview, counseling
  – Investigation

• **Staff and Faculty should take a leadership role**
  – Get away from danger (Get Out, Hide, Fight)
  – Find a Safe Place, make it safer
  – Calm, reassure, and quiet others
  – Report the incident
  – Treat injured
Closing Statement

• We cannot predict the origin of the next threat

• Assailants in some recent incidents across the North America were not necessarily students or employees

• It is up to you to take steps for your own safety and the safety of those around you when this type of incident occurs
Questions?

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A version of this presentation is available online at:

http://security.mcmaster.ca/campus_emergencies_guide.html