



# Active Shooter Response Protocol

**AN INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE  
FOR FACULTY IN THE CLASSROOM**

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY

# ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE PROTOCOL



## AN INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE FOR FACULTY IN THE CLASSROOM

### INTRODUCTION

Pepperdine approaches emergency preparedness in a way that makes the safety of the University's students, faculty, and staff the first priority in any emergency situation.

Pepperdine uses multi-disciplined best practices for preventing and responding to an active shooter threat by partnering with nationally-recognized experts in threat assessment and all levels of law enforcement.

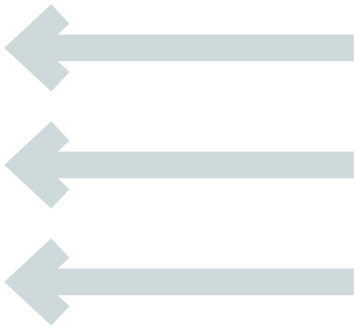
### WHAT TO DO IN THE CASE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

Consistent with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the leading threat assessment professionals, Pepperdine offers the following guidelines for faculty while teaching in the event of an active shooter prior to Public Safety or police response. You and your students should run, hide, or fight. Which of these you do will depend on the immediate circumstances.

## RUN

Your first response should be to get your class and yourself completely out of the building and area of attack. If you deem it safe to exit the building and run, do so. When you reach a safe location, call 911.

Evacuate even if others do not, but encourage your students to come with you. Leave your personal possessions behind, but bring your phone.



## HIDE

If the gunman is too close to safely exit the building and run, you should hide and try to secure yourself and your students. Barricade yourself in your classroom or other room. Pepperdine classrooms on the Malibu campus and all graduate campuses are lockable from the inside with a deadbolt.

Use discretion: if heavy furniture is available, barricade windows and doors with it. If only student desks or smaller furniture is available, make large piles with the pieces to obstruct views and entry. Make the room appear empty: turn lights off, silence cell phones, and encourage silence.

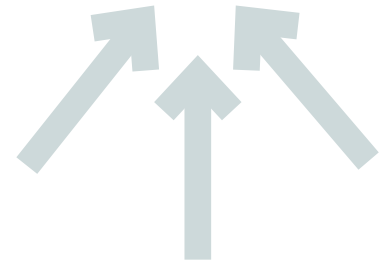
Move away from doors and windows, and stay behind solid objects to the extent possible. Call 911, staying as quiet as possible, even if you have to silently leave the line open. Make a plan for how to work together to react if the assailant enters your room.

## FIGHT

If you are unable to run or hide from an active shooter, or the shooter enters into your room, all occupants must fight.

Swarm the gunman, and attack with any available objects that can be wielded as weapons; if weapons are not available, attack with your hands, feet, and body.

Encourage occupants to throw objects at the gunman, as this can disorient. Do whatever you can in this way to incapacitate or expel the gunman.



## INTERACTING WITH FIRST RESPONDERS

First responders' initial responsibility is to identify the gunman and stop the shooting. Follow the directives from the first responders; they will not be able to immediately differentiate an attacker from innocent community members. Avoid quick movements, remain calm, and keep your hands visible to first responders.

## PREVENTING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER THREAT

The best scenario is to prevent an active shooter event before it happens. The University's threat assessment team is experienced, well-trained, and consists of a multi-disciplined membership, aided by external experts in psychology and threat management. Our best chance at prevention requires all of us

to report concerning, threatening, or suspicious behavior or circumstances. Do this by calling Public Safety at 310-506-4441, your dean's office, Student Affairs, or Human Resources. Tips can also be shared through the free LiveSafe app available to all community members. The app allows you to submit

information, including photos or videos; chat with Public Safety; and review best practices for responding to emergencies. Additionally, when you use LiveSafe to call 911 or contact Public Safety, the app notes your location at the time of the call, helping first responders know exactly where help is needed.

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We strongly recommend watching the training video, "[Shots Fired](#)," available in WaveNet. If you would like more information about how to respond or the University's emergency preparations, please contact:

**Public Safety**

**310-506-4442**

**Office of Insurance  
and Risk Management**

**310-506-4410**