Are You Prepared for an Active Shooter Incident?

Attend NOVA Police Training.

Last week’s tragedy at Oregon’s Umpqua Community College is the most recent in a depressingly long string of active shooter incidents. We like to think we will never confront such horrors, but neither did the innocents at Newtown, CT; the Washington Navy Yard; and Charleston, SC.

An active shooter situation occurs when a person or persons armed with a deadly weapon is systematically and actively employing the weapons against victims, even upon the arrival of the police.

The following themes may help keep you safe:

1. Expect the unexpected. Look at people critically. Look for behavioral changes; suspicious packages; inappropriate dress (e.g., a long coat on a summer day could conceal a rifle); seeming depression; loss of interest in school, friends, and favored activities; etc.)
2. If you see something that makes you uncomfortable or arouses your suspicion, report your concerns immediately to the NOVA College Police at 703-764-5000. The police rely on information from the entire NOVA community to keep our campuses safe and will investigate/respond to all reports.
3. Police may not arrive on the scene to respond to an active shooter for several minutes. During this time, you are responsible for ensuring your own safety. Develop a plan for each location you frequent.
4. Time is critical. Be prepared to act decisively. In the event of an active shooter on campus, you have three options, which are summarized in an excellent video found on the NOVA Police website http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/police/  
    Run. Evacuate the area immediately. *If you can evacuate, this is your best chance of survival!* Even if the shooter is approaching you, you are more likely to survive by running away, since a moving target is difficult to hit and most shooters are not trained marksmen.
    Hide. If you cannot evacuate, lock the doors; turn off lights, pagers, and cell phones; hide behind articles such as desks as far out of view from windows as possible; and remain quiet. Spread out; do not huddle together.
    Fight. If evacuation is not possible and you’re actually confronting the shooter, go on the offensive. Yell, improvise weapons, throw articles, attack, and secure the shooter. Put the shooter on the offensive to minimize your own casualties. Commit to survive!
5. Police will respond aggressively.
    Don’t get in the way or contribute to an already confusing situation. The police’s immediate goal is to end the threat. They will not stop to help the wounded or assist in evacuation.
    Don’t allow yourself to be considered a suspect. Keep your hands visible and make no quick/unpredictable movements. Leave handbags and backpacks, which police will assume is hiding a weapon, in the classroom.

NOVA Police will offer detailed active shooter response briefings in October from noon-1:00 pm according to the following schedule:

- October 14, Alexandria Campus
- October 15, Medical Education Campus
- October 16, Annandale Campus
- October 19, Loudoun Campus
- October 22, Manassas Campus
- October 29, Woodbridge Campus

RSVP to Sgt. Tony Ong at tong@nvcc.edu. He will provide locations of the briefings via return email.
October is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Many Virginians remember where they were and how they reacted on August 23, 2011, during the historic 5.8 earthquake, which was centered in Louisa County. Although we rarely experience earthquakes in Virginia, that day reminds us we need to know what to do.

Earthquakes happen without warning, and the shaking may be so severe you cannot run or crawl. If the ground starts shaking: **DROP** to the ground, take **COVER** under a sturdy desk or table, and **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops.

An earthquake drill, along with regular practice sessions, can teach your family what to do in an earthquake. By planning and practicing what to do before an earthquake occurs, you can condition yourself and your family to react correctly and spontaneously at home, school or work when the first jolt or shaking is felt.

Teach your family member how to identify safe spots in each room, with the best safe spots being under heavy pieces of furniture, such as a desk or sturdy table; under supported archways; and against interior walls. Avoid danger spots, such as windows, hanging objects, mirrors, fireplaces, and tall unsecured pieces of furniture. You can reinforce this knowledge, especially with children, by physically placing them in the safe locations.

NOVA will conduct earthquake drills at each campus on October 15th (10/15) at 10:15 am. You owe it to yourself and your family to participate in these drill so you can be prepared to deal with this potential catastrophe. For more information about NOVA’s earthquake emergency procedures, visit www.nvcc.edu/emergency. Also, visit www.ready.gov/earthquakes or www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stayinformed/earthquakes for additional information on earthquakes.

Law Enforcement and Communities of Color

Chief Daniel Dusseau recently joined other area law enforcement leaders at the International Association of Chiefs of Police meeting on "Law Enforcement and Communities of Color." The attendees discussed challenges and effective strategies to develop and enhance community trust.
NOVA Police Sergeants Reassigned

All NOVA sergeants who oversee police operations on their respective campuses were reassigned, effective September 10. According to Dan Dusseau, NOVA Chief of Police, the reassignment was done to offer new challenges and opportunities for the professional growth of the sergeants. At the same time, the assignments of new sergeants to each campus were based on the unique needs of the campuses and the strengths of individual sergeants. Also of significance is the promotion of Officer Tony Ong, who has served the last four years as the department’s community outreach officer, to sergeant.

The reassignments are as follow:
- Sergeant Chris Ovenden: from Alexandria to Manassas
- Sergeant Tony Ong (newly promoted): assigned to Annandale
- Sergeant Kerry Haynes: from Loudoun to Medical Education Campus
- Sergeant Jeff Rudolph: from Manassas to Alexandria
- Sergeant William “Billy” Spaulding: from Woodbridge to Loudoun
- Sergeant Debera Long: from Medical Education Campus to Woodbridge

The sergeants have coordinated the turnover of their respective responsibilities and are already immersing themselves in the operations of their new campuses.

NOVA Police Outreach Events

DEA Drug Take-Back Event

On September 26, 2015, NOVA Police participated in the 9th National Drug Take-Back initiative on the Annandale Campus. This event, hosted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), collected 7 bags of miscellaneous controlled and non-controlled drugs, totaling 103 lbs. NOVA Police has participated in the last eight of nine DEA events and our efforts have had a significant impact on helping dispose of dangerous drugs properly.

(L-R) Officers Jared Williams and Juan Cardenas with collected drugs
NOVA Police Outreach Events

NOVA Police Host Distracted Driving Demos

NOVA Police and Virginia State Police are hosting a Distracted Driving Awareness Demo at the Annandale Campus. This demo shows the potential deadly effects of distracting driving. Come join us in a safe environment on our golf cart cone course to test the deadly effects of distracted driving.

**Dates and Locations:** (event will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm)
- October 22nd, Annandale Campus on the plaza in front of the CG building.

**DETER AUTO THEFT FREE VIN Etching**

**DATE:** October 23, 2015 (Event will be rescheduled in the event of rain)
**TIME:** 10:00AM-2:00PM
**LOCATION:** Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale Campus) B-1 parking lot
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003

Virginians pay a high price for stolen vehicles.
Thefts drive up the cost of automobile insurance and generate significant social costs associated with crime. There is a safe and economical deterrent to auto theft: VIN etching. VIN etched windows help the police detect and identify stolen vehicles. Bring your vehicle to get a FREE VIN etching, chat with some of your local police officers, and learn about auto theft prevention.