Are You Prepared for an Active Shooter Incident?

The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut is only the most recent in a depressingly long string of active shooter (AS) incidents. We like to think we will never confront such horrors, but consider the locations of other active shooter incidents: Littleton, CO; Santee, CA; Nickel Mines, PA; Red Lake, MN; and Chardon, OH. Residents and students in these areas likely doubted they would be victims of such heinous attacks.

An active shooter situation is any incident in which a person or persons armed with a deadly weapon is systematically, actively, and presently employing the weapons against innocent victims upon the arrival of the police. While it is impossible to include all the information needed to prepare for an active shooter incident, the following vital themes should be reviewed to keep you safe:

1. An AS incident can develop anytime, anyplace.
2. Expect the unexpected. Look at people’s behavior critically.
   - Be aware of behavioral changes; suspicious packages; inappropriate dress (e.g., a long coat on a sunny summer day could be hiding a rifle); increased use of illegal substances; depression; loss of interest in school, friends, and usual favored activities; declining personal hygiene; etc.
3. If you see something, say something! Report concerns immediately to the NOVA College Police. The Police will respond to all reports. The Police will also notify College CARE and Threat Assessment Teams to ensure help is made available to people exhibiting concerning behaviors.
4. Police cannot guarantee prevention of an active shooter.
   - At best, the police can deter an AS by regular foot and vehicle patrol, but the police rely upon information from the entire college community to keep us safe.
5. Ultimately, you are responsible for ensuring your own safety in a crisis through planning (i.e., have a plan for each location you frequent) and a commitment to survive.
6. Time is critical. You must act decisively. If an AS is on campus, you have 3 options:
   - **Flee.** Evacuate the area immediately. *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 proficient marksmen.
   - **Hide.** If you cannot evacuate, lock the doors; turn off lights, pagers, and cell phones; hide behind articles such as desks out of view from windows; and remain quiet.
   - **Fight.** In extreme circumstances, when evacuation is not possible and you’re actually confronting an active shooter, you and others must go on the offensive. Just like Todd Beamer said “let’s roll” and set off with other passengers to attack the 9/11 hijackers, you must do the same. Yell, throw articles at the shooter, attack; improvise weapons; and overpower and secure the shooter. Put him on the defensive to minimize casualties.
7. Police will respond aggressively.
   - Don’t get in the way or contribute to an already confusing situation. The police’s immediate goal is to go directly to the shooter to end the threat.
   - Keep your hands visible and make no quick/unpredictable movements toward the police. You maybe restrained as Police determines who is a suspect.
8. Program NOVA Police Dispatch into your cell phones now: **703-764-5000.**

The NOVA Police Department offers detailed briefings on AS history, their motivations, what to do in an AS incident, and what to expect from the police response. Groups interested in receiving this presentation should contact the Department’s Community Outreach Officer, Tony Ong, at tong@nvcc.edu. To view a short summary video provided by Homeland Security, go to: [http://www.publicsafety.virginia.gov/Videos/index.cfm](http://www.publicsafety.virginia.gov/Videos/index.cfm).

*Please see page 5 of this newsletter for a tip sheet that you may have accessible at all time.*
OEMP Recognition

The Office of Emergency Management and Planning was recently recognized by Virginia’s Governor and the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security for “outstanding and exemplary initiatives in the areas of all-hazards emergency preparedness”.

The Director of Emergency Management and Planning, Will Flagler, accepted the award and stated that, “The success of the initiatives and the Emergency Management program at the College is due in part to maintaining an open dialogue between faculty, staff, students, and the Office of Emergency Management and Planning.” Flagler believes initiatives like the Campus Emergency Response Team (C-CERT), the Emergency Warden Program, having emergency plans, and varied training sessions all contribute to ensuring NOVA is a safe place to learn and work.

For additional information on Emergency Management, visit www.nvcc.edu/emergency

Vote For Police Chief of The Year

NOVA’s Police Chief, Dan Dusseau, has been nominated as a finalist in Campus Security Magazine's annual chief of the year competition. He is one of 16 finalists in a strong field of candidates, including chiefs from major national universities. Selection will be based on a popular vote. Go to the web site below and give Chief Dusseau your support. Your vote will not only reward the Chief for the outstanding job he is doing at NOVA, it will put NOVA on the map. Contact NOVA Police Community Relations officer Tony Ong tong@nvcc.edu for more details.


(Please click on “Vote for your favorite Director of the Year finalist” to enter your ballot)
Lt. Randy Carlock, Commander of Police Safety District One (MA and WO), graduated in December from a three-week “Leadership in Police Organizations” course, conducted at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. This training, adapted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police from leadership training taught at the United States Military Academy (West Point), used a behavioral science approach to leading people and groups and effecting organization adaptation and change in dynamic environments.

NOVA Chief of Police Dan Dusseau stated “We are proud of Lt. Carlock and excited he is bringing this excellent training to the NOVA Police Department. He has already made important contributions that are increasing our officers’ motivation, satisfaction, and job performance.”

In December, NOVA Police and NOVA alumna Margaret Reed collected toys for families affected by Hurricane Sandy. All the toys collected were given to the Bailey’s Crossroads Rotary Club, which started this donation effort. The toys were then transported to New Jersey to children who were not able to celebrate Christmas this year because of the hurricane’s devastation.
The NOVA Police are offering a Drug, Alcohol, and Substance Abuse Awareness workshop for the NOVA community.

**Topics include:**
- Alcohol violations and penalties
- How to determine if someone is intoxicated / under the influence
- Drug violations and penalties
- Long-term consequences of substance abuse
- Examples of controlled and non-controlled drugs
- Resources

**Dates/Times:**
- Alexandria – February 18, AA – 158 (12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)
- Annandale- February 19, CE – Seminar Room A & B (12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)
- Woodbridge- February 20, WAC – 110 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)
- Loudoun- February 21, LW – 116 (11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)
- Manassas- February 22, MP– 211 (12:00 PM—1:30 PM)
- Medical Education- February 26, Room 254 (12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)

The training is open to all. Due to space limitations, you must reserve your seat in advance. Contact Officer Tony Ong, NOVA Police Community Outreach Officer, via e-mail (Tong@nvcc.edu).

**SAFE— Women’s Self-Defense Class**

Sexual Assault Free & Empowered (SAFE) is a free women’s self-defense program offered by NOVA Police. SAFE empowers women with knowledge to reduce the occurrence of and respond to sexual assault. The program teaches women to take an active and positive role in their own self-defense and psychological well-being. This training is open to all female members of the NOVA community and their female family members.

**Registration information:**
- Dates: Feb 16 and Feb 17.  *MUST ATTEND BOTH DAYS FOR COMPLETE TRAINING*
- Time: 8:00 AM to Noon
- Place: Alexandria Campus
  3001 N. Beauregard St
  Alexandria, VA 22311
- Room: AA-158 (02/16); AA-291 (02/17)
- Contact: Officer Tony Ong if you have any questions or want to register.  Tong@nvcc.edu
Active Shooter Tips

- If you hear gunfire, you have 3 options, based upon your specific situation:
  - **Flee** immediately if possible, this is your best chance of survival, even if the Active Shooter is nearby.
  - **Hide** in a secure location
  - **Fight** if confronted by an Active Shooter, go on the offensive and attack.

- ASAP, Call NOVA Dispatch (703- 764-5000) or 911. Report:
  - Location of Active Shooter?
  - Number of Active Shooters?
  - Types of weapons?
  - Victims?

- See website for Active Shooter tips.
  [http://blogs.nwcc.edu/police/2013/01/08/are-you-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident/](http://blogs.nwcc.edu/police/2013/01/08/are-you-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident/)