



## Twin Valley Council Active Shooter Plan for Camping Properties and Scouting Events

The Scout motto is, "Be Prepared." While we don't anticipate something like this will happen at a Scouting event, we must "Be Prepared" to know what to do in case it does happen.

Active Shooter is defined as "one or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others."

The average active shooter situation from the first shot to resolution is 2-12 minutes. By the time law enforcement shows up, the incident will likely be over. So we have to communicate with Scouts, staff, volunteers, law enforcement, and emergency services to ensure everyone is prepared.

In the high-intense situation that surrounds an active shooter there is not often time to think, just react, so we want to keep it simple. So remember these three basic principles: **Run, Hide, Fight**

**Run** – If there is an active incident involving immediate harm, get out of the area. Run and keep running. When fleeing from the area, if possible, alert others to the danger as you leave. As a general rule, someone will find you, even if it takes a while. By keeping running, it's harder for a shooter to hit a moving target.

**Hide** – If you are unable to flee the area the violence is occurring in, then try to find a safe place in the area or within the facility to hide and secure yourself and other in.

- Turn off the lights and barricade the doors and windows with anything you can find.
- Find a safe place to hide until you are advised by the appropriate law enforcement to come out.
- Silence phones, radios, etc.
- Be quiet
- Lock doors and windows, if possible
- Use door jams or wedges, if available, to secure doors
- Hide behind large items
- Do not open the door for anyone once it is locked or barricaded. If someone is outside the door, tell them to run away; it could be the shooter wanting to get in. If the person outside says it is law enforcement and to let you in, do not let them in. Instead, call 911 and let them know that someone stating that they are law enforcement is at the door trying to get in and you want to verify it is indeed law enforcement.
- Don't be in a hurry to get out.

**Fight** – Fighting an active hooter should be the last resort. If you are unable run out of the area or barricade yourself in an area, fight the assailant only as a last resort if your life is in imminent danger. A few tips:

- Act with physical aggression
- Use improvised weapons
- Attack as a group to overwhelm the shooter
- Take the fight to the shooter into a doorway or stairwell, if possible as this limits their view and ability to move.

### Do's and Don'ts



Do follow law enforcement instructions when they arrive on scene

Do communicate with people about an active shooter using plain language; do not use codes

Do call 911, if possible. Keep in mind you might not get through if many people are calling at the same time

Don't run into a building or structure; stay outside and keep run away.

Don't have a specific meeting spot that people should congregate to; a shooter might know this and go there

Don't use a siren or any sort of over-the-air sound to indicate an active shooter

Don't stop running if you can't reach someone when dialing 911.

What to do if you end up subduing the shooter and take possession of their weapon?

- If the suspect is still a threat – You have them subdued and still need to possess the firearm for your own safety you need to make sure that you do not pose a threat to responding officers. Suspect descriptions change or are many times wrong or lost in confusion so responding officers might not know you are not the threat. You can have other bystanders let arriving officers know the suspect is down or that a “good guy” civilian has the suspect’s weapon.
- If the suspect is not a threat - There is no need for you to currently possess the firearm so place it in a small container like a garbage bin or cardboard box, anything that is non-threatening to arriving officers, and you can let them know on arrival that you have the weapon.

This active shooter plan was last reviewed on 04/10/2021

### **Recommendations**

- Number the campsites/building at all properties. So when communicating about an active shooter, instead of saying we have an active shooter at “Sioux campsite,” say active shooter at “campsite #1” or “campsite #1, Sioux Campsite.” So those who know campsites or building locations know what we are talking about and those who don't know to avoid building #1 such as local Law Enforcement. Numbers should be big and very visible
- Have directional signage at camps to where everything is at; Law enforcement doesn't know where “shooting sports” is for example
- Update map of all properties with labels and campsite/building numbers and date map was last updated
- Have radios at all events for staff to use to be able to communicate quickly; cell phones take too long to dial in a tense situation
- Provide wedges or other devices to prevent someone from opening a door if someone needs to barricade themselves in the building. Have those devices next to the door. Deadbolts can fail or someone could get their hands on building keys
- Identify which 911 centers may receive a call from camp and provide that 911 center a map of camp and a copy of the active shooter plan for that property.
- Work with local law enforcement that could respond to each property to make sure the plan makes sense for their department and include any recommendations they may have
- Plans and map should be reviewed annually
- Have some sort of group text for each event that can be used for an active shooter, fire, flood, tornado, etc.
- Train volunteers and Scouts at neighborhood meetings and at Scouting events
- Train camp staff at camp and Scouting events