

CODE SILVER / ACTIVE SHOOTER

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DISCLOSURE

- I have nothing to disclose

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Explain the US Home Security “Run, hide, fight” model as a method of response during an active shooter incident.
- 2. List key external and internal resources that should be involved in planning a health care facility active shooter drill.
- 3. Due to the unique challenges presented in an active shooter incident, staff may be required to take actions that can be uncomfortable to them and/or not practiced in other emergency drills. Identify some of these actions.

FEMA DEFINES ACTIVE SHOOTER AS

- an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area
- 70% are over in 5 minutes
- 2000-2015 an FBI study identified 200 active shooter events, 6 in health care settings
- Most gun-related events in hospitals (not just active shooter) are due to grudges, suicide, euthanasia

MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS

BEFORE THE EVENT – THREAT ASSESSMENT

- Diligence to identify a threat, watch for:
 - Escalating disruptive or violent behavior
 - Work place violence
 - People standing, pacing, wearing a heavy coat in the summer time
 - Employee ID badges
 - Threatening or intimidating statements, bizarre behavior , statements about suicide

DRILLS

- Involve external and internal resources
- Practice – practice – practice
- Loss of fine motor skills VS procedural / muscle memory
- Opportunity to discuss uncomfortable topics
- Have two routes of escape identified in advance

RESOURCES - INTERNAL

- Facility Security
- Engineering
- Public safety
- Executive leadership
- Clinical Care providers
- Risk management
- Ethicists

RESOURCES – EXTERNAL

- Fire department
- Police
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Emergency management

NOTIFICATION

- Plain language codes – not code silver
- The panic myth
- People want clear details about what they should do and when they should do it.

RESPONSE

RUN

- React quickly
- Leave your belongings
- How will you leave and where would you go
- Who to notify once you reach a safe location
- Encourage others to leave with you, but do not let them slow you down
- Do not attend to the wounded
- If police are on scene – hands in the air, follow directions

HIDE

- Identify places to hide
- Turn off cell phones and pagers
- Turn off lights
- Be quiet
- Barricade door (stretcher / desk / bookshelf)
- Do not hide in an area that restricts your movements
- If you have dialed 911 but can't speak, leave the line open so they can hear

FIGHT

- Identify potential improvised weapons (chairs, fire extinguisher, coffee pot)
- Commit to the action and act with aggression
- Unarmed citizens safely restrained shooter in 21 incidents

HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

- Leave them pressurized or depressurize
 - Location and time
- How will it respond if shot (acrylic)
 - Depends on perpetrator distance from chamber, internal chamber pressure and weapon / caliber of bullet
 - Most common weapon used in active shooter incidents is a pistol

HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

- No time – leave the chamber(s) and run or hide
- Time for action but no depressurization:
 - Lower pressure to 0 psi – depressurizing decreases risk of rupture if shot
 - Can cover acrylic
 - Turn down sound

HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

- If barricaded in the room / secured access room
 - Turn communication system off
 - Silence phones
 - Turn off lights
 - Turn chambers to zero and find a weapon
 - Are patient's safer in the chamber at 0 psi than barricaded in the room outside the chamber?

RECOVERY

POST EVENT

- Notification
- Debriefing for staff / lessons learned
- Counseling

IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS

Unlike other emergency drills – staff may need to purposely take actions that oppose what is usually practiced.

- Avoid regular evacuation staging location
- May need to leave people (including patients) behind, including patients in the hyperbaric chamber

SOURCES

- FEMA – IS-907- Active Shooter:What you can do. <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907>
- Behavioral Analysis Unit – National Center for the Analysis of Gun Crime. Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing, and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks. https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/making_prevention_a_reality_identifying_assessing_managing_threats_of_ta.pdf/view
- FBI Resources.Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2014 and 2015. https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/activeshooterincidentsus_2014-2015.pdf/view
- FBI Resources.A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013. <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-study-2000-2013-1.pdf/view>
- ALERRT Active Shooter Data.Texas State University. <http://www.activeshooterdata.org/index.html>
- International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs. 2017.Active shooter planning and response: Learn how to survive a shooting event in a healthcare setting.