Active Shooter/Attacker Training: Are you prepared?
Did you know?

- An FBI study identified educational environments to be among the top locations of active shooter/attacker situations in the U.S.

- The UNCW Police Department initiated active shooter/attacker training sessions for the campus community in 2006, before the shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007 prompted national demand for such courses.

- Even when law enforcement is present or able to respond to an attack within minutes, civilians often have to make life-or-death decisions on their own.
Be aware, no matter where.

Common locations for active shooter/attacker situations include:

- Universities, colleges and schools
- Malls and shopping centers
- Places of worship
- Sports events and concerts/entertainment venues
Mentality of an Active Shooter/Attacker

- The attacker wants to kill and seriously injure others, often without concern for his/her own safety or the threat of capture.
- The attacker may search out designated victims or choose victims randomly.
- The attacker will continue to move throughout a building or area until stopped – whether by law enforcement, suicide, other intervention – or flee the area.
What occurs next when an active shooting happens or attack takes place?

- Anyone in the affected area should **RUN HIDE FIGHT**
- Upon confirming an emergency situation UNCW Police will activate the Seahawk Warning Sirens to sound campus alarms.
- If you are a witness, don’t assume that other individuals have contacted law enforcement. Call 911 as soon as it is safe for you to do so.
Always take campus alarms seriously!

• Don’t presume an alert is a drill.

• Keep your safety and the safety of others in mind and respond appropriately.

• Monitor your text messages, emails and mobile phones for information from UNCW Alert ([www.uncw.edu/alert](http://www.uncw.edu/alert)).

• Students are automatically registered for emergency messages from UNCW Alert. Faculty and staff are encouraged to register ([uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety](http://uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety)).
What happens next?

RUN

If there is no immediate threat to your location, seek escape via a safe route
If you can’t escape:

**HIDE**

If evacuation is not a safe option, go to a secure area, lock or barricade doors, block windows/close blinds, stay low, and remain quiet and out of sight.
As a last resort:

- Decide to **FIGHT** if you are in immediate danger and have no other option.
- **RUN** or **HIDE** may be a better option if available.
If you must **FIGHT**: 

- There is strength in numbers!
- Respond to imminent threats by **yelling**, **throwing items** and **striking/hitting** the attacker.
- Attempt to force the attacker to the floor.
- If possible, take the weapon from the attacker.
- Hold the aggressor down, with one person on each limb and one person controlling the attacker’s head.
Possible weapons include:

- Scissors
- Pens and pencils
- Chairs or desks
- Items that can be thrown at the attacker
- Items that can be used as a club
What can you expect from law enforcement when they arrive?

• Under UNCW Police Department policy, once officers arrive, they will make every effort to stop the attacker.
• Try to remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions.
• Understand that preventing the attacker from causing more harm is the officers’ first priority, and they will not be able, at that point, to provide first aid or evacuate areas.
• Try to be patient. Continually assess your safety and the area you are in. It may be hours before evacuations are complete.
Plan for the worst.

• Practice, practice, practice your departmental/office/residence hall emergency response plans.

• Don’t assume that someone else has made these plans. Ask those in charge.

• If there’s no departmental plan, suggest a meeting to develop one.
It is up to all of us to prepare, decide and lead.

- Be prepared, not paranoid.
- Be a leader, not a hero.
Training offered:
- 2nd Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m.
- 4th Wednesday of each month, 2 p.m.
General Safety Tips

- Limit opportunities for crime.
- Always trust your gut instinct.
- Be observant – notice the location of fire alarms, emergency exits and call boxes.
- Report anything suspicious.
- Use escorts and ask for assistance.
- Secure your valuables.
- Use common sense.
Questions or comments?

Visit

un cw.edu/activeshooter

for more information and resources.

denoial@uncw.edu
watkinsj@uncw.edu
levitzd@uncw.edu
pol ice@uncw.edu