

Oct 15, 2014

During an Active Shooter Incident

What to expect when help arrives

When law enforcement and other first responders arrive, keep in mind that the scene will most likely be very chaotic. The police will be trying to assess and control a very stressful situation.

The law enforcement priority is to stop the attack. They will be reacting to your actions and making split second decisions. It is important that you respond to any officers that you encounter appropriately. They will not know who you are and they may assume that you are a possible threat until they can determine that you are not.

- Keep your hands visible. Drop anything that you may be carrying.
- Do not make any sudden movements.
- Do not wave frantically.
- Do not point things at them, such as cell phones or any improvised weapons you may have picked up along the way.
- Provide any information that you may have as to who or where the shooter(s) is.

You can expect to see police officers who may or may not be wearing a uniform – however, even plainclothes police officers will most likely have on some kind of law enforcement identifier, such as a police badge or patch. Law enforcement officers will be armed, they will issue you commands, they may even physically restrain you, or they may bypass you. Follow their instructions implicitly, regardless of whether these instructions make sense or violate a company policy or procedure.

Because the police are trained to stop the attack, the first officers will likely bypass any persons injured, escaping, or hiding. Once the shooter had been stopped, they will provide medical assistance and begin evacuation. You may be asked to assist. If you are willing and able, let them know and follow their instructions.