



Village of Cuyahoga Heights Newsletter ~ November 2017

Police Department:

From the desk of Chief Sturgill...

As we approach this holiday season, most of us like many Americans will be out at shopping malls, celebrating at holiday events and shows, and attending worship services (with larger than normal crowds). Due to these facts and the recent events that are becoming all too common, I unfortunately feel it necessary to address the "active shooter/killer" topic and discuss some measures that may help keep you and your family safe.

PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

An "Active Shooter/Killer" is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated areas; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

As these events are becoming all too common place, we are realizing that active shooter events can happen anywhere or at any time. What was once considered to be isolated to the workplace or to schools, is now occurring at outdoor venues, malls, theaters and places of religious worship. Having a plan and being prepared for these events are the first act of protection.

- Be aware of your environment and access any possible dangers.
- Mentally ask yourself, "What would I do if...?"
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- Consider other exit options. Restaurants have kitchen exits, stores have shipping exits, etc.
- Discuss options and family reunification plans with children
- If you see something, say something. Report all suspicious activity and items whether it be in public or the workplace.

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

1. **RUN:** If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
- Keep your hands visible
- Follow the instructions of any police officers
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
- Call 911 when you are safe



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2. **HIDE:** If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide. Your hiding place should:
 - Be out of the active shooter's view
 - Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
 - Not trap you or restrict your options for movement
 - Lock and blockade the door with heavy furniture
 - Silence your cell phone and turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
 - Hide behind large and dense items (i.e., file cabinets, desks)
 - Remain calm
 - Dial 911(if possible) to alert police. If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

3. **FIGHT:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
 - Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her.
 - Throwing items and improvising weapons. (Fire extinguishers, books, scissors, etc.)
 - Any and all active counter measures
 - Attacking or Swarming as a group
 - **Committing to your actions!**

As a final thought, it is not my intent to provide this information in order to alter your plans or to dissuade you from enjoying the events of the holiday season. If we allow these animals to influence or dictate our actions then they have already won. I present this information only in the hopes it will provoke vigilance, thought and awareness within the community to what has become a very real threat. Also to provide options and alternatives for surviving this type of life threatening incident

Stay Safe!

*Respectfully,
Chief Stargill*

