

Who we are

The Baltimore County Police Department's Homeland Security Team is part of the Homeland Security and Criminal Intelligence Section. The team supports the Department's mission of SERVICE by providing the following:

- Situational Awareness Presentations
- Emergency Action Plan Assistance
- Exercise Facilitation
- Vulnerability Assessments
- Support to Critical Infrastructure-Key Resources
- Facilitation of the Department's SHIELD program

Contact Us

The Homeland Security Team appreciates your interest in this program. Any questions, comments, concerns, or feedback can be directed to us via the following:

Baltimore County Police Department
Homeland Security & Criminal Intelligence Section
Homeland Security Team
700 E. Joppa Road
Towson, Maryland 21286

Phone: (410) 887-2056

Email: pdhomelandsecurityfax@baltimorecountymd.gov

Web: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/shield.html>

"If you see something, say something"

1-800-492-TIPS (8477)



**Civilian Response
to
Active Shooter Events
Avoid/Deny/Defend™**

**BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMELAND SECURITY TEAM**

Situational Awareness

Situational Awareness involves being aware of what is happening in the environment, in order to understand how information, events, and one's own actions will impact both immediate and future outcomes.

Three Stages of Disaster Response

- **Denial** (Normalcy Bias) – When the brain interprets information as if it is part of our everyday experience.
- **Deliberation** – When a decision has to be made and the brain reverts to a “fight or flight” mentality. Having a pre-existing plan, remaining calm, and shifting emotion can help to mitigate this step allowing for a quicker decision.
- **Decisive Moment** – When a decision has been made and it is necessary to act quickly and decisively. Failure to act and reverting to a prior step can result in you becoming a target.

ALERRT™ Center at Texas State University

Avoid/Deny/Defend™

<http://www.avoiddenydefend.org/>

Avoid

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. This can be accomplished by:

- Having an escape route and plan in mind.
- Prevent individuals from entering hazardous areas.
- Leave everything behind including your belongings. Do not stop to shut down a computer or to pick-up a cellphone.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow. Exception: Assisting others who may be disabled or unable to evacuate on their own, if safe.

Deny

Deny the shooter access if evacuation is not possible:

- Be out of the active shooter's view.
- If possible, do not trap yourself or restrict your options for movement.
- Lock the door to the room you are in and cover windows that look into the room.
- Remain silent and put any electronic devices on silent mode.
- Barricade the door with heavy objects. If the door opens out use the objects to slow the shooters entrance. Use of unconventional methods may also be an option: Ropes/belts/tactical cinch/etc. to tie the knob to an object.

Defend

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting in an aggressive manner.
- Throwing any available items and improvising weapons using objects readily available.
- Yelling and acting disorderly.
- Committing to your actions.

You have the right to defend yourself

When the Police Respond

- Follow all commands given by arriving officers.
- Keep your hands clear of all objects and fully visible.
- Do not make sudden movements or rush towards the officers.
- Do not ask questions; however, provide any pertinent information known about the suspect, weapon, and anything that could assist officers.