

October 2019

By: Brett Wardle

Active Shooter

Editor: Emily Hanson

Intermountain Power Service Corporation



Supervising Safety Newsletter

It seems like every time we turn on the news there are reports of individuals not only trying to take their life, but the lives of countless others as well.

Workplace violence/active shooter situations are happening more and more frequently. Although OSHA doesn't have a specific regulatory standard for it, they are asking employers to train, inform, and prepare employees for an active shooter event.

IPSC is putting together an online training module that will give employees the information and the steps to take during an active shooter event. This module is meant to help employees prepare for an emergency situation that hopefully will never take place.

This newsletter is to help start the conversation about what can be done in order to protect ourselves and those around us during an active shooter emergency.

There are three steps that can be taken in an active shooter situation.

1. RUN/EVACUATE — This should be the first thing you should attempt if it is safe to do so.
2. HIDE — If escape is not possible, hide.
3. FIGHT — This is the last resort and must be done with lethal intent.

Run/Evacuate if possible means:

- Getting away from the shooter or shooters is top priority.
- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Help others escape, if possible, but evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Warn and prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Call 911 when safe and describe the shooter, location, and weapons being used.

Hide, if escape is not possible means:

- Find a place to hide where the active shooter is less

likely to locate you.

- Get out of the active shooter's view and stay quiet.
- Silence all electronic devices, including vibration settings.
- Lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off lights.
- Do not hide in groups. Spread out along walls or hide separately to make it more difficult for the shooter.
- Stay in place until law enforcement signals all clear.
- Hide in a place that is out of view and provides protection if shots are fired.

Fight as an absolute last resort means:

- Commit to your actions and act as aggressively as possible against the shooter.
- Recruit others to ambush the shooter with makeshift weapons like chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, books, etc.
- Be prepared to cause severe or lethal injury to the shooter. It is a life or death situation.
- Throw items and improvise weapons to distract and disarm the shooter.
- Yell, scream, and shout in order to distract and confuse the shooter.

An active shooter has limited time to work with so he/she wants to inflict as much harm and injury as he/she can. The active shooter doesn't care who is shot or what he/she is shooting at. It is vital that victims react appropriately and as quickly as possible. Remember the three options:

- 1) Run first if able to do so.
- 2) Hide if escape is not possible.
- 3) Fight with everything you have because your life depends on it.

If you would like this information presented in a safety meeting please contact Brett Wardle.