

# RUN, HIDE, FIGHT

George Mason University Department of Police & Public Safety recommends the following procedures:

If you see an armed intruder, hear gunshots or receive a warning about an active killer in your immediate area -- and you are in an office or classroom -- the first thing you should try to do is Get Out! If you are out in the open run to a safe location, get to a point you cannot see the intruder and call 911.

**Running:** If you think you can safely make it out of the area, do so! If you decide to run, do not hesitate. Do not stop or go back to get your bag, purse, etc.,. Try and get others to come with you but do not let them hold you up. Once you are out of the building/danger area continue to run to a safer location. If possible, try to prevent others from entering the building. If you can still see the building, the intruder can still see you. Once in a safer place call 911. Do not assume someone else already has. In preparation for this type of incident, make sure you know multiple ways to get out of your office suite and/or building or classroom. Can you use a back elevator or staircase? Is there an emergency exit closer to you than the main exit?

**Hiding:** Look for a safe/more secure place to hide. Look for a place that has a door that locks and no windows or windows with blinds. Turn off the lights, turn down the volume and ringer on your phone, if possible stay low and away from the windows or doors. Try and put things in front of the door like a photo copier, table, etc.

**Fighting:** If you are confronted by the intruder and feel you have no other choice, consider fighting. If you fight, fight hard! Find anything in your area and use it as a weapon. A fire extinguisher, coffee pot, chair, etc., can be used. React quickly and violently. The intruder will most likely not be expecting a fight. Surprising the intruder could give you a moment to overtake them, disarm them or even disable them/their ability to kill.

**Police Action:** Remember, if you see police and other law enforcement personnel responding, follow their instructions exactly. Keep your hands visible and up and obey all commands they give you. As you move towards the exits to get out they may be moving in the opposite direction looking for the intruder – don't block their progress. They will not be able to stop, answer questions or help anyone until the intruder has been stopped. Stopping the killer will be their first, TOP priority.

**Post – Incident:** Once the threat has been stopped, law enforcement personnel must clear the entire building. It may take a long time. Be patient and if you have questions, concerns or need help, you can call the police.