

Active Assailant (Shooter) – Protocol 136

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International Academies of Emergency Dispatch HiRISC Policy

The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch considers any situation necessitating the provision of these instructions to be an extremely High Risk-Inherent Situation Case (HiRISC), and believes that the trained Emergency Dispatcher (certified EMD, EFD, EPD) or their agency, making a good-faith attempt to provide these instructions, should not be held responsible for any bad outcomes. This should not be considered a legal interpretation, but a strong official opinion of the Council of Standards and the Board of Trustees of the IAED.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. **What type of weapons are involved?** _____
 - a. **(Gun)** How **many** shots have been **fired**?
 - b. **(Gun)** **When** was the **last time** you **heard** shots fired?
2. How **many** suspects are **involved**?
3. **Where's the suspect now?**
 - a. **(Suspect left/leaving/circulating)** How did s/he **leave**?
 - i. **(Vehicle)** I need to get the **vehicle description**... _____
 - ii. What **direction** was s/he going?
 - b. I need to get the **suspect's description**... _____
4. **Can you safely evacuate/leave the building/area?**
Yes _____
No or Unknown _____
5. **(LOCKDOWN)** Where **exactly** are you?
 - a. What's the **best way** to **get** to you?
 - b. How **many** people are **with you**?
6. How **many** people are **in the building/area**?
7. Does the suspect appear to be wearing a **bulletproof vest** or **body armor**?
8. Did you **see** the suspect **carrying anything**?
 - a. **(Yes)** **Describe** it to me.
9. Did you **hear** the suspect **saying anything**?
 - a. **(Yes)** **What** did s/he say?
10. **(Suspect on scene)** I need to get the **suspect's vehicle description**... _____
 - a. **Where's the vehicle** now?
11. Has the suspect **taken any hostages**?
 - a. **(Yes)** How **many**?
 - b. **(Yes)** Exactly **where** are they?
12. How **many** people are **injured**? **+**
13. Is there **anything else** you can **tell me**?



S-1

S-2



POST-DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS



(Evacuation)

- a. If the **suspect leaves**, tell me **immediately**.
- b. **Do not put** yourself in any (more) **danger**.

(LOCKDOWN)

- c. If the **suspect is nearby**, keep very **quiet** and stay **out of sight**.

*** Do computer check.**

*** Follow department policy** regarding the **notification** of department administration, speciality units (SWAT), and bordering agencies.

DLS

*** Link to** **X-1 unless:**



Stay on the Line _____



X-2

Urgent Disconnect _____



X-3

Safety Disconnect _____



X-4

Evacuation _____

S-1 pullout →

LOCKDOWN _____

S-2 pullout →

LEVELS # DETERMINANT DESCRIPTORS **➔ C E G K M O** CODES

E

1 ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)

136-E-1

DESCRIPTION ESSENTIALS**Weapons**

- Gun (**type**: pistol, rifle, shotgun)
- Knife (**type**: long, short)
- Club (**type**: bat, tire iron)
- Other (**type**: glass, bottle, vehicle)
- Explosive (**type**: bomb)

**Person(s)** (armed suspects first)

- **Race**
- **Gender**
- **Age** (DOB)
- **Clothing**
- Build/Height/Weight
- Hair color/length/style
- Other identifiable characteristics (facial hair, accent, tattoos, piercings, jewelry)
- Complexion
- Eye color
- Demeanor (calm, emotional, intoxicated)
- Name/Relationship
- Address/Phone number

**Vehicle (CYMBALS)**

- **Color**
- Year
- Make/Model
- **Body style**
- Additional (paintwork, damage)
- License
- State/Province

**Bicycle**

- Type/Style
- Color
- Brand/Manufacturer
- Wheel size
- Other features

**Boat** (Vessel)

- **Size**
- Color
- Name
- Registration number
- **Type** (inboard, outboard, sail, cruiser, speed, racing, pontoon, ship)

**Determinant Suffixes**

The suffix codes help to delineate the specific type of weapon:

- C** = Club
- E** = Explosive
- G** = Gun
- K** = Knife
- M** = Multiple weapon types
- O** = Other

ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)

An **armed** person who has used **any type of weapon** to inflict **deadly physical force** on others and **continues** to do so while having **unrestricted access** to additional victims.

LOCKDOWN

A response utilized by schools, businesses, or individuals that **secures people** in a facility or room to **minimize their exposure** to an **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)**.

Rules

1. **ASSAULT** situations in which a suspect **does not have unrestricted access** to additional victims should be **handled on Protocol 106**.
2. **Evacuating**, if **safe** to do so, is the **best action** callers can take to **save lives**. However, if this is **not possible**, instructions for callers to go into a **LOCKDOWN** are **critical**.
3. **Hostage situations** developing in the course of an **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** scenario should be **handled on Protocol 136**.

Axioms

1. Individuals who are found by an **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** and **cannot get away** should be **mentally prepared to fight for their lives** by using weapons, throwing objects, acting aggressively, and yelling.
2. **Most victims** of the Columbine High School massacre were found **in the library** where students were **unable** to evacuate or go into a **LOCKDOWN**.
3. The term "**active shooter**" is a phrase coined by law enforcement to describe **armed assailants who use deadly force** on individuals while having **unrestricted access** to additional victims. These assailants **commonly use firearms**, hence the term "**active shooter**"; however, **any weapon could be used**.
4. A true **LOCKDOWN** **supersedes a fire alarm unless** the smoke or fire is an **immediate life threat**.

NTOA Statement

NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association) **cautions against** a change in police response **based solely on a time delay** of when shots were reportedly last heard. This time delay, by itself, **does not negate the need for an immediate response**. The perpetrator may be using, or preparing to use, other weapons (knives, IEDs, etc.), or her/his shots may not be audible. If the threat's location is not known, officers should begin searching or rescue wounded victims. Officers should transition to a hostage/barricade situation, if necessary, based only on the totality of circumstances.

1 Evacuation

Get out of the building/area **even if** others **won't** follow. **Help** others escape, if **possible**. Take an evacuation path that's **away from the suspect**. **Warn others** of the situation as you escape. **Do not** attempt to **move** wounded people. **Do not** rush **towards officers**, keep your **hands visible** at all times, and **follow** all of their **commands**. **Update** police with the **suspect's description and location**.

- Can you **take the phone with you?**

Yes → Return to sequence

(No) Call us **back** from a **safe** location, if possible.

End

2 LOCKDOWN

Do not leave your current location if you feel the **suspect will see or find you**. If it's **safe** to do so, **gather** those around you and **go** to the **nearest** room with a **locking door**. Once you're **inside**, **lock** the door and **barricade** it with heavy objects. Try to **prevent** being **seen**. If you can, **turn off** the **lights** and **close** the drapes or blinds to **cover** any **windows**. **Sit** or **lie** on the floor **next** to the wall with the door and be **as quiet as possible**. **Silence** the **ringer** and **vibration mode** on your cell phone. **Do not answer** or **open** the door for **anyone**. If you are **found** and **unable** to get away, be **aggressive** and prepared to **fight for your life** by using any items you can as **weapons**. Throw objects, yell, and continue to **defend yourself**.

Return to sequence

Academy Policy

These instructions were developed with the assistance of the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA).

The International Academy of EPD considers situations necessitating the provision of these instructions to be an extremely **High Risk-Inherent Situation Case (HiRISC)** and believes that the trained EPD (or their agency), making a good-faith attempt to provide these instructions, should not be held responsible for any bad outcomes. This should not be considered a legal interpretation, but a strong official opinion of the Council of Standards and Board of Trustees of the IAEPD.

Rules

1. **ASSAULT** situations in which a suspect **does not have unrestricted access** to additional victims are **not ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** incidents.
2. **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** situations **change rapidly**, so the EPD must consider and provide the **most appropriate advice** items in this protocol to **assist** the caller.
3. At some point, phone **contact** with the caller may be **lost**. **Pre-Arrival Instructions** need to be **given early** to **prepare the caller** as much as possible to **escape** or **defend** themselves.