



# Active Shooter Guide

Howard University  
Department of Public Safety

# The Active Shooter Defined

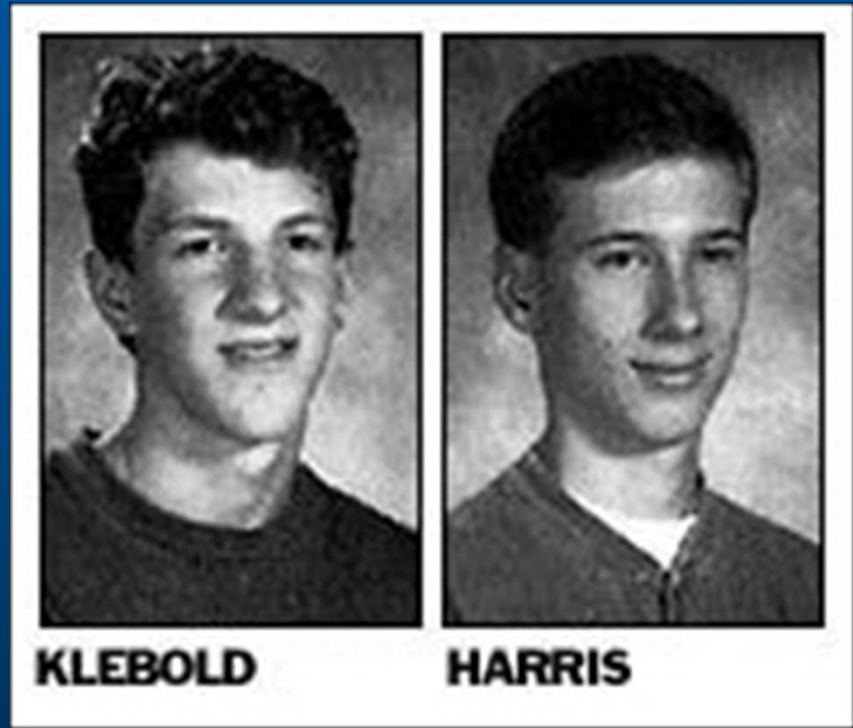
- A suspect or assailant whose activity is immediately causing death and serious injury
- Threat is not contained and there is immediate risk of death and injury

# Active Shooter

- Considered the greatest terrorist threat on campuses
- Incidents of targeted violence at schools were rarely sudden impulsive acts
- Most attackers had no history of prior violent or criminal behavior

# Mentality of Active Shooter

- Desire is to kill and seriously injure without concern for his/her safety or threat of capture
- Normally has intended victims and will search them out
- Accepts targets of opportunity while searching for or after finding intended victims
- Will continue to move throughout building/area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention



**Eric David Harris**

**Born** April 9, 1981

\_ Wichita, Kansas

**Died** April 20, 1999 (aged 18)

\_ Columbine, Colorado

**Status** Deceased (suicide)

**Parents** Wayne Harris

Kathy Harris Dylan

**Bennet Klebold**

**Born** September 11, 1981

\_ Lakewood, Colorado

**Died** April 20, 1999 (aged 17)

\_ Columbine, Colorado

**Status** Deceased (suicide)

**Parents** Thomas Klebold

Susan Klebold

On April 20, 1999, in the small, suburban town of Littleton, Colorado, two high-school seniors, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, enacted an all-out assault on Columbine High School during the middle of the school day. The boys' plan was to kill hundreds of their peers. With guns, knives, and a multitude of bombs, the two boys walked the hallways and killed. When the day was done, twelve students, one teacher, and the two murderers were dead.

The **Red Lake High School massacre** was a school massacre that took place on Monday, March 21, 2005 in which Jeffrey Weise, a student at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Beltrami County, Minnesota, killed seven people including a teacher and a security guard. He had previously killed his grandfather (a police officer) and his grandfather's girlfriend at home before going to school to commit the massacre. Seven others were wounded. When police cornered Weise inside the school, he shot and killed himself.

# Virginia Tech



- On 4/16/2007 at 7:15 am, Seung-Hui Cho, a Virginia Tech student, entered a dorm and killed two people. Two hours later, Cho entered Norris Hall and killed 30 more people before taking his own life.
- To date, this is the worst school shooting in American history.



# Your Response

STAY CALM

Your actions will influence others

# Your Response

- Secure the immediate area – whether classroom, bathroom, or office.
  - Lock the door. This may require advanced planning to ensure ability to lock the door – key and type of lock.
  - Most doors in university buildings are solid core, and many walls are block and brick. This may provide some protection
  - Block the door using whatever is available - desks, file cabinets, books, other furniture...
  - If the shooter enters your room and leaves, lock/barricade the door behind him. **Overpower??**
  - If safe allow others to seek refuge with you

# Your Response

- Treat the injured
  - Remember basic first aid
  - For bleeding apply pressure and elevate
  - Be creative in identifying items to use for this purpose - clothing, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, news papers, etc.

# Your Response

## Un-securing an area

- The shooter will not stop until his objectives have been met, unless engaged by law enforcement
- Consider the risk exposure created by opening the door
- Attempts to rescue people should only be made if that can be done without further endangering the persons inside a secured area
- The shooter may bang on the door and yell for help to entice you to open the door
- Remember the safety of the masses versus the safety of a few
- If there is any doubt to the safety of the individuals inside the room, the area needs to remain secured

# Your Response

- Doors, Windows, Openings, and Noise
  - Close blinds
  - Block windows
  - Turn off radios and computer monitors if necessary
  - Silence cell phones
  - Signs can be placed in interior doors, windows, but remember the shooter can see these
  - Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons
  - Keep occupants calm and quiet
  - After securing the room. People should be positioned out of sight and behind items that might offer additional protection - walls, desks, file cabinets, etc.

# Contacting Emergency Personnel

- Emergency Dial 911
  
- Contact HU Police at 202-806-7777

# What to Report

- Your specific location
  - Building name
  - Office/classroom number
- Number of people at your specific location
- Injuries
  - Number of people injured
  - Types of injuries
  - Dispatcher may provide instructions on how to care for injured until medical assistance can be provided

# What to Report

- Assailant(s)
  - Specific location
  - Number of assailant(s)
  - Race and Gender
  - Clothing color and style
  - Physical features – height, weight, facial hair, glasses
  - Type of weapons (rifle/shotgun, handgun)
  - Backpack
  - Do you recognize the shooter? What's his name?
  - Have you heard explosions separate from gunshots?



# Unsecured/open areas

- If you find yourself in an open area, immediately seek protection
- Put something between you and the shooter
- Is escape your best option? Do you know where the shooter is? Is escape immediately available?
- If in doubt find a safe area and secure it the best way you can

# CAMPUS POLICE RESPONSE

The Campus Police Department has trained its officers for emergency situations. Our first mission as Campus Police Officers is to protect the Howard University Community.

# Law Enforcement Response

- ◆ Law enforcement will immediately respond to the area
- ◆ It is important for you to convey to others that help is on the way. Remain inside the secure area.
- ◆ Law enforcement's goal is to locate, contain, and stop the shooter
- ◆ The safest place for you to be is inside a secure room
- ◆ The shooter will not flee when law enforcement enters the building, instead he will have new targets to shoot
- ◆ Remember the shooter's mindset is **NOT** escape. His goal is to kill and injure

# Law Enforcement Response

- ◆ Injured persons
  - Initial responding officers will not treat the injured or begin evacuation until the threat is neutralized
  - You may need to explain this to others in an attempt to calm them
  - Once the shooter is contained, officers will begin treatment and evacuation
- ◆ Evacuation
  - Safety corridors will be established. This may be time consuming
  - Remain in secure areas until instructed otherwise
  - You may be instructed to keep your hands on your head
  - You may be searched
  - You will be escorted out of the building by law enforcement personnel

# The Investigation

- ◆ Information will be released to the Howard community and media as quickly as possible
- ◆ The entire area will be treated as a crime scene
- ◆ Once you have been evacuated you will not be permitted to retrieve items or access the crime scene
- ◆ After evacuation you will be taken to a holding area for medical care, interviewing, counseling, etc.

- ◆ Law Enforcement can no longer predict the origin of the next threat
- ◆ Assailants in some recent incidents across the country were not students or employees
- ◆ There were no obvious specific targets and the victims were unaware they were targets, until attacked

# Summary

## "Your" Response

- ◆ You should take a leadership role
- ◆ Seek secure area
- ◆ Calm, reassure, and quiet others
- ◆ Report the incident
- ◆ Treat injured

## "Law Enforcement" Response

- Objective is to neutralize threat
- Evacuation
- Follow up medical care, interview, counseling
- Investigation



Campus Police NON-Emergency  
202-806-1100

Campus Police EMERGENCY  
202-806-7777