

UC Santa Cruz Police Department

Trapped with the gunmen:

- Don't do anything to provoke them. If they are not shooting, comply with demands and do not make any sudden moves.
- Call 911 if possible, if you cannot speak, just leave the line open so the police can hear what is going on.
- If they do start shooting people, you have to make a choice: stay still and hope you are not shot, run for an exit while zigzagging or play dead.
- A final resort would be to attack the shooter with, especially by improvising weapons (fire extinguisher, chair, etc) but only if there are no other options.

What to expect from responding police officers:

Officers are trained to go to the location where the last shots were heard, **their purpose is to first find and stop the shooter**, not to aid injured victims.

Here is what you should do when you encounter responding officers -

- Tell officers where the shooter is or where they headed and their description (clothing, gun, etc)
- Keep your open hands on your head and make no sudden moves
- Listen to all commands
- Keep calm
- After evacuating, stay nearby as this is still a crime scene and witnesses are needed



Contact us in-person, online or over the phone:
Located at the Emergency Response Center
Website: police.ucsc.edu
Phone Number: (831) 459-2231

Active Shooter Incidents

UC Santa Cruz Police Department



Instances of armed disturbed individuals coming onto school campuses are a rare but unfortunate reality, the U.C. Santa Cruz Police Department has some safety tips.



What is an active shooter?

An active shooter is a situation where one or more suspects participate in a random or systematic shooting spree and demonstrate intent to continuously harm others. The overriding objective appears to be that of inflicting serious bodily injury/ death rather than other criminal conduct.

You can be ready, should an incident ever occur by doing basic things such as constantly observing the environment around you wherever you are, mentally noting exit routes available in the room or building you are in, and planning for such a scenario.

Each incident is different but actions in response to them generally fall under –

- Run out: Can you safely escape?
- Hide out: Is there a good place to hide?
- Take out: Can you take out the shooter?

In the classroom or office:

- If the gunmen are nearby but not in the immediate vicinity, making escape risky: lock the door, turn off the lights, cover windows, silence any possible noise source, find concealment and try to remain quiet. Depending on time constraints, you may only have time to hide or play dead.
- If the gunmen are confirmed to be distant and there is a safe accessible escape route available, evacuate but be sure to have a plan in mind. Leave your belongings behind.
- If a door has no lock and opens in, depending on the location of the gunmen, barricade the door with heavy furniture as quietly as possible as others keep watch for the threat.
- Do not open the door to anyone who you do not recognize.

In hallways or corridors:

- Find an unlocked room and then secure it.
- Unless you are close to an exit, don't run through a long hall to get to one as you may encounter the threat.

In large rooms/ auditoriums:

- If the gunmen are not present, move to and out the external exits and move toward any police unit. Drop all bags and keep your hands on your head.

Open Spaces:

- Stay alert and look for appropriate cover or go prone. Your cover should be able to fully conceal you and should be hard enough to stop a bullet if need be.

A YouTube video made in partnership with the U.C. Santa Cruz Fire Department as part of the Ready Slugs project regarding an Active Shooter is available online.