

August 5, 2019

Members of the Stanford Community,

The Stanford Department of Public Safety (DPS) works around the clock to maintain a safe and secure campus environment. Unfortunately, we cannot presume that Stanford is immune to the senseless and unpredictable violence that has impacted cities across the nation and in our own county.

In the wake of the recent mass shooting events in the United States, DPS is encouraging a proactive approach to community safety and wellbeing as it relates to these events. The DPS website has resources for all members of the Stanford community to use to help prevent and respond to an active threat, including the Annual Safety and Security Report that contains information about how to protect yourself in a variety of situations. Here is some of the information that can be found in the Annual Safety and Security Report specific to active threats.

**Prevention:** If you become aware of someone who has expressed an intent to harm others, notify local law enforcement immediately. Many persons who commit acts of violence have made some indication of their intention prior to carrying out the attack. Stanford University has a threat assessment team that can be utilized to evaluate threats and perceived threats. For more information about the university's Threat Assessment Team and ways in which you can contribute to safety on campus, see <http://safety.stanford.edu/>

**Response:** If you are confronted with an imminent threat to your life, there are three actions to consider: Run, Hide, and Fight.

- Run – If you hear gunfire or see an active threat, move as quickly as you can in the opposite direction. Put as much distance and as many solid objects as possible between you and the threat.
- Hide – If running from the threat is not a viable option, the next action is to hide and barricade. Lock doors and use heavy objects to prevent entry to the room, turn off lights, and hide. Turn off all sounds on your personal devices (cell phones, tablets, watch). While barricaded, prepare for a possible confrontation by improvising weapons from sharp or heavy objects.
- Fight – As a last resort, fight back aggressively. Use anything at your disposal to disable an attacker and stop the threat. If there are people with you, work together to overcome the attacker.

**Communication:** In an emergency, the university will communicate information via the AlertSU system. Since these alerts are sent to all members of the university, the safety advice offered via an AlertSU message might not apply to your specific situation. Members of the university community should make sure their contact information is current in StanfordYou in order to

receive these messages. As a reminder, firearms are not permitted on Stanford property except for active law enforcement officers.

**Training:** DPS offers additional resources to help you prepare, including an active shooter presentation for groups on campus (offered at no cost). The presentation takes approximately 60 minutes and there is no minimum or maximum attendance required. To inquire about scheduling, email [community-outreach@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:community-outreach@lists.stanford.edu) or call 650-723-9633. The presentation is also an opportunity to get location-specific advice for spaces on campus.

**Videos:** The following videos can also help you prepare to respond to an active shooter or active threat incident:

- Stanford University Department of Public Safety Active Threat video: <https://police.stanford.edu/active-threat.html>
- Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Preparedness video: <https://www.dhs.gov/cisa/options-consideration-active-shooter-preparedness-video>

**Other online resources:** These reference resources also are available to help individuals and offices plan for an emergency:

- Q&A with Chief Laura Wilson and university Emergency Manager Keith Perry: <https://news.stanford.edu/2018/03/02/preparing-worst-case-scenario/>
- Threat & Violence Prevention Guide: <http://safety.stanford.edu>
- Stanford's Annual Safety and Security Report <https://police.stanford.edu/security-report.html>
- Stanford Environmental Health and Safety Emergency Response Guidelines for Active Threat: <https://ehs.stanford.edu/manual/emergency-response-guidelines/active-threat>

**Support:** These incidents can create a level of anxiety and stress, even if they do not directly impact you or someone you know. The university offers support resources including:

- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) <https://vaden.stanford.edu/caps>
- Faculty Staff Help Center <https://cardinalatwork.stanford.edu/faculty-staff-help-center>

Stanford University Department of Public Safety