


Office and Polling Place Security Practices



**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Outline:

- ▶ Situational Awareness & General Security Considerations for Volunteers
- ▶ Dealing with Hostile Voters
- ▶ Suspicious items/devices/bombs
- ▶ Active Shooter



Situational Awareness & General Security Considerations

What is situational or situation awareness?

Situational/situation awareness is the conscious knowledge we have of the immediate environment and all of the events happening in it. The elements are perceived and comprehended.

Situational Awareness



Some Basic Street Sense

- ✓ Wherever you are—on the street, at home, in an office, shopping at the mall, driving—stay ALERT and tuned in to your surroundings.
- ✓ Send the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going.
- ✓ Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.
- ✓ DO NOT be distracted by your cell phone.

Walking...

- Use well-lit, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots or alleys.
- Don't flash cash or expensive jewelry.
- Carry purse close to your body, not dangling by strap. Put wallet in front pants pocket or inside coat.
- Don't wear clothing or shoes that restrict movement.
- Have car or house keys in hand before you reach the door (car or house).
- DO NOT be distracted by your cell phone.

Parking Lot/Parking Garage Safety

- ▶ Be suspicious of anyone approaching your vehicle. Always leave car windows up.
- ▶ Keep doors locked and windows shut.
- ▶ Avoid parking next to a van's sliding door.
- ▶ Approach your vehicle with keys in hand.
- ▶ Look around your vehicle for suspicious activity. If you see someone loitering around your vehicle, walk past until they leave.
- ▶ Scan interior of vehicle before unlocking door. Be sure to look in back seat.
- ▶ DO NOT be distracted by your cell phone.

Dealing with Hostile Voters

Things to remember when dealing with a hostile or argumentative voter

- ▶ Keep Safe
- ▶ Keep your distance
- ▶ Keep your options open
- ▶ Keep your cool and avoid escalation
- ▶ Don't take it personal
- ▶ Be proactive instead of reactive
- ▶ Utilize assertive and effective communication
- ▶ If you say you are going to do something, do it

Suspicious items/devices/bomb threats



Suspicious vs Unattended

- ▶ Unattended is an item that is left in an unusual place. It can even be left in a weird manner.
- ▶ Suspicious is an item that is left in an unusual place with an additional fact that raises it above an unattended item
 - Item left and the owner runs off
 - Item left and there is a threat associated with the person or place it is left
 - Item left by a disgruntled employee
 - Item left with wires protruding or weird smells

Suspicious vs Unattended

- ▶ If an item is found the first step should be to determine if it is suspicious or unattended
 - How did it get there?
- ▶ Is there a logical or innocent explanation for how it got here
 - White powder on the ground that looks like powdered creamer and there is a coffee maker near by
- ▶ Is there video surveillance that could help in determine the circumstances around the item
- ▶ Are there witnesses that can be used to locate the owner.

Suspicious vs Unattended




- ▶ If an item is determined to be unattended treat it as a found property
- ▶ If an item is determined to be suspicious then take a mental note of certain things
 - ▶ Where is the item located?
 - ▶ How big is the item? (ie. Height, length, width)
 - ▶ What is the items outer packaging made of?
 - ▶ Is there anything written on it?
 - ▶ Where is it relative to the wall or other objects?
 - ▶ Is there something unique about it?
(ie. Writing, ticking sound or wires protruding)

Suspicious vs Unattended

- ▶ First off don't touch it!
- ▶ Second remain calm.
- ▶ Don't use a radio (walkie-talkie) or cell phone while standing over the object.
 - ▶ With modern technology if you back away a short distance you should be safe
- ▶ Notify a supervisor and/or security of what you located. If you are the supervisor call 9-1-1
- ▶ Isolate and Evacuate the area
 - ▶ The distance is relative to the size of the object (See Stand Off Chart)
 - ▶ If you are in a multi level building be sure all floors are properly notified



BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CHART

Threat Description Improvised Explosive Device (IED)	Explosives Capacity ¹ (TNT Equivalent)	Building Evacuation Distance ²	Outdoor Evacuation Distance ³
 Pipe Bomb	5 LBS	70 FT	1200 FT
 Suicide Bomber	20 LBS	110 FT	1700 FT
 Briefcase/Suitcase	50 LBS	150 FT	1850 FT
 Car	500 LBS	320 FT	1500 FT
 SUV/Van	1,000 LBS	400 FT	2400 FT
 Small Moving Van/ Delivery Truck	4,000 LBS	640 FT	3800 FT
 Moving Van/ Water Truck	10,000 LBS	860 FT	5100 FT
 Semi-Trailer	60,000 LBS	1570 FT	9300 FT

1. These capacities are based on the maximum weight of explosive material that could reasonably fit in a container of similar size.

2. Personnel in buildings are provided a high degree of protection from death or serious injury; however, glass breakage and building debris may still cause some injuries. Unstrengthened buildings can be expected to sustain damage that approximates five percent of their replacement cost.

3. If personnel cannot enter a building to seek shelter they must evacuate to the minimum distance recommended by Outdoor Evacuation Distance. These distance is governed by the greater hazard of fragmentation distance, glass breakage or threshold for ear drum rupture.

Active Shooter Response For Civilians



What defines an active shooter?

An “active shooter” is an individual who is engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Potential Targets

- Businesses/Commerce
- Educational Institutions
- Government Facilities
- Healthcare Facilities
- Open Space/Public Venues
- Houses of Worship

Preparation and Response

- What do we do as an individual and as an organization?

We plan and train to prevent, mitigate, or react appropriately to survive and assist law enforcement by providing information.

Active Shooter Preparedness Video

Run – Hide – Fight

- ✓ **Run-** If there is an accessible escape path. Encourage others to leave with you.
- ✓ **Hide** - If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide. Silence your phone and turn vibration mode off. Barricade yourself with whatever is available.
- ✓ **Take action against the active shooter** - This is a last resort. Use whatever means necessary to protect your life and the life of those around you. What tools are at your disposal?



Active Shooter Prevention

- Foster a respectful environment
 - Establish effective hiring practices
 - Create a system for reporting behavior problems
 - Make counseling available to students, employees or members of a congregation
- Be aware of indications of workplace/organization violence and take remedial action accordingly when identified

Suspicious Activity

- Appears very nervous for no obvious reason.
- Looks around to check who is looking at them.
- Carrying or trying to hide objects that may resemble a weapon.
- Leaving the area in a rush. Running or walking very fast. May look back frequently.

Suspicious Activity

- Dresses or behaves inappropriate to the weather conditions: Jacket or heavy coat in hot weather.
- Setting down a package or a bag, and then leaving the area.

If anything appears out of the ordinary, keep a distance from that individual and notify security/management/law enforcement immediately

Individual Actions

Active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes. Many times this is before law enforcement arrives on scene.

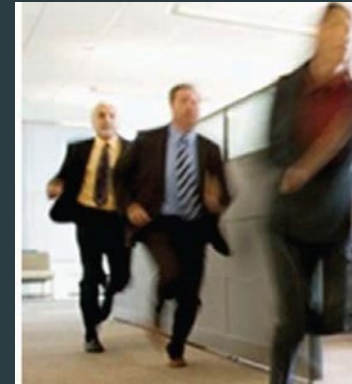
Individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter.

Individual Actions

- Does your organization have a policy for emergencies and do you know it?
- What are you going to do?

Run, Hide or Fight

- What is in the office that you can use for protection?



Individual Safety

Do not unnecessarily risk your personal safety or re-enter dangerous areas! Doing so may hamper law enforcement's efforts to end the attack.



Individual Safety

- Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that others are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter situation.
- Don't worry about your purse or personal property. It's not worth your life!

Information to provide 911

- ✓ Location of the active shooter.
- ✓ Number of shooters, if more than one.
- ✓ Physical description of shooter(s).
- ✓ Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s).
- ✓ Number of potential victims at the location.

If you are able to and without putting yourself in danger, remain on the line to provide up to date information of the incident.



Law Enforcement Response

- Deputies and officers will enter as they arrive.
- Law enforcement may wear regular patrol uniforms or external body armor, helmets, and other tactical equipment.
- They will be armed with handguns, rifles, and/or shotguns.
- Officers and deputies may shout commands, and may direct individuals to the ground for their safety and yours.

Law Enforcement Response

Once law enforcement arrives on scene, they **WILL NOT** stop to help injured persons.

Expect rescue teams to follow the initial deputies or officers. These rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons. They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises.

Response to Law Enforcement Actions

- Remain calm, and follow instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands.
- Immediately raise hands when instructed.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid making quick movements towards law enforcement.
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask law enforcement for help or directions when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which law enforcement are entering the premises.

Questions?



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