Active Shooter Awareness

The BYU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry hosted Lieutenant Chris Autry on February 21 for a special seminar titled “Shooter Awareness.” He presented a variety of helpful tips and information to assist the students, staff, and faculty if an active shooter event occurred on campus. Some of his key recommendations included (1) signing up for BYU’s Y-Alert Emergency Alert System and (2) viewing the three videos specifically geared toward active shooter awareness and preparation.

As Lieutenant Autry emphasized multiple times, most people will not know how to react in an emergency unless they have at least thought through their course of action. This month’s Safety Gram will summarize key points from Run. Hide. Fight. in an effort to equip students, staff, and faculty with the life-saving knowledge should this type of disaster strike our campus. For more in-depth training, please do not hesitate to participate in the trainings and watch the videos found at police.byu.edu.

BYU Y-Alert

Information is critical in protecting yourself and others in an emergency. While disasters may seem unlikely now, Chief Larry Stott reminds us, “If ye are prepared, ye shall not fear.”

In the event of an emergency, BYU Police will send a Y-Alert to any phone number or email listed under “Campus Emergency Alert Contact Information” listed in your BYU Personal Information.

These emergency alerts will also broadcast through all campus IP phones. Emergency alerts may also come via police vehicle PA alerts, fire alarms, or TV and radio stations.

When you hear of a situation, you have the responsibility of heeding the warning and spreading the message to keep yourself and others safe. If you have information regarding a situation, call 911 immediately.

Do not call 911 seeking information about an incident.

This video, released by the Department of Homeland Security, covers basic response to any active shooter event. The video provides the following advice:

**RUN**
When an active shooter is in your vicinity:
- If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate.
- Evacuate whether others agree to or not.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Help others escape if possible.
- Prevent others from entering the area.
- Call 911 when you are safe.

**HIDE**
If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide.
- Lock and/or blockade the door.
- Silence your cell phone.
- Turn off any lights.
- Hide behind large objects.
- Remain very quiet.

**FIGHT**
As a last resort, and only if your life is in danger:
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Act with physical aggression.
- Improvise weapons.
- Commit to your actions.

When law enforcement arrives, remember to:
- Remain calm and follow instructions.
- Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Avoid pointing or yelling.
- Know that help for the injured is on its way.

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**Be Alert to Signs of Trouble**

Potential warning signs include:
- Increasingly erratic, unsafe, or aggressive behaviors.
- Hostile feelings of injustice or perceived wrongdoing.
- Drug and alcohol abuse.
- Marginalization or distancing from friends and colleagues.
- Changes in performance at work.
- Sudden and dramatic changes in home life or in personality.
- Financial difficulties.
- Pending civil or criminal litigation.
- Observable grievances with threats and plans of retribution.

**Appropriate Intervention**

Help ensure the safety of you and your colleagues by:
- Being aware of drastic changes in attitude toward others.
- Taking note of any escalations in behavior.
- Providing any information that may help facilitate intervention and mitigate potential risks.

**Reach Out for Help**

Concerned? Witnessed disturbing behavior?
Contact your supervisor or your human resources department to alert them of potential dangers and enable them to mitigate any emerging risks.

You are the first line of defense. Report suspicious activity.
In an emergency, always call 9-1-1 or contact local law enforcement.