

Harris Health System
P.O. Box 66769, Houston, Texas 77266-6769

MEMO

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2015

To: All Staff

From: Aaron Velasquez – Emergency Management Specialist/Project Manager

Subject: Active Shooter Training Video

"Active Shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. We highly encourage everyone to review our Active Shooter material and video. It will raise your awareness of behaviors that represent characteristics of active shooters." – Chris Okezie

In parallel to the clinical areas it is our responsibility to secure, train, and educate for an active shooter in all clinical and administrative areas. Please read the key concepts, and view the Active Shooter in Healthcare Video.

Key Concepts

How to Respond – 4 A's

1. Accept that this is real and happening
2. Assess your situation
3. Act
 - Evacuate (Run) – Have an escape route and plan in mind. (Know your nearest Exits)
 - Hide – Hide in an area that is out of shooter's view; Secure or block door, Turn off lights; Turn off cell phone.
 - Take Action (Fight) – As a last resort attempt to incapacitate shooter.
4. Alert others as you take action. Call Security 713-566-6901, ext. 66901, and 911

Provide the following to law enforcement, security, or 911 operators

Location of the active shooter(s)/ Number of shooter/ Description of shooter(s)/ Number of victims

When Law enforcement arrives

- Remain calm and follow instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands and raise hands and spread fingers.
- Avoid quick movements, pointing, screaming or yelling.
- First responding officers are there to confront shooter(s) not assist victims.

The Active Shooter in Healthcare video is accessible through UTHHealth LBJ webpage.

<https://med.uth.edu/harrishealth/> -> Useful Links -> Shots Fired for Healthcare (Video)

The Active Shooter in Healthcare video is also accessible through Harris Health Intranet site.

Harris Health Intranet Home Page -> Departments/Programs -> Emergency Management -> Click on



We also encourage all medical staff to discuss the site specific plans with nurses and staff in their respective unit and departmental areas. As medical staff you spend a large portion of day in clinical/procedural areas, visiting with patients, and walking between areas. Please be aware of your location and surroundings at all times by making mental notes of the closest exits, rooms that can be secured or barricaded, and any items that can be used to protect yourself or incapacitate a shooter.

Frequently asked questions

1. What do I do with my patient? Every situation is different. We cannot tell you what to do. This training teaches you how to have a Survivor/Protector mindset. You have to make your own decision to Run, Hide, or Fight. If you decide to fight – you have to be prepared to incapacitate the shooter.
2. How will the new gun law in January change things? Hospitals will remain the same. This law will affect free standing clinics and business occupancies.