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International Academies of Emergency Dispatch HiRISC Policy

The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch considers any situation necessitating the provision of these instructions to be an extremely High Risk-Inherent Situation Case (HiRISC), and believes that the trained Emergency Dispatcher (certified EMD, EFD, EPD) or their agency, making a good-faith attempt to provide these instructions, should not be held responsible for any bad outcomes. This should not be considered a legal interpretation, but a strong official opinion of the Council of Standards and the Board of Trustees of the IAED.
**KEY QUESTIONS**

1. What **type** of weapons are involved?  
   a. *(Gun)* How **many** shots have been **fired**?  
   b. *(Gun)* When was the **last time** you **heard** shots fired?  
2. How **many** suspects are **involved**?  
3. Where’s the suspect now?  
   a. *(Suspect left/leaving/circulating)* How did s/he **leave**?  
      i. *(Vehicle)* I need to get the **vehicle** description…  
      ii. What **direction** was s/he **going**?  
   b. I need to get the **suspect’s description**…  
4. Can you safely **evacuate**/leave the building/area?  
   Yes  
   No or Unknown  
5. *(LOCKDOWN)* Where **exactly** are you?  
   a. What’s the **best way** to **get** to you?  
   b. How many people are **with** you?  
6. How **many** people are **in** the building/area?  
7. Does the suspect appear to be wearing a **bulletproof vest** or **body armor**?  
8. Did you **see** the suspect **carrying** anything?  
   a. *(Yes)* **Describe** it to me.  
9. Did you **hear** the suspect **saying** anything?  
   a. *(Yes)* **What** did s/he say?  
10. *(Suspect on scene)* I need to get the **suspect’s vehicle description**…  
    a. Where’s the **vehicle** now?  
11. Has the suspect **taken** any **hostages**?  
   a. *(Yes)* **How many**?  
   b. *(Yes)* **Exactly where** are they?  
12. How **many** people are **injured**?  
13. Is there **anything else** you can **tell** me?

**POST-DISPATCH INSTRUCTIONS**

(Evacuation)  
   a. If the **suspect leaves**, tell me **immediately**.  
   b. **Do not put** yourself in any (more) **danger**.  

(LOCKDOWN)  
   c. If the **suspect** is **nearby**, keep very **quiet** and stay **out of sight**.

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**LEVELS # DETERMINANT DESCRIPTORS + C E G K M O CODES**

**E** 1  **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)**  

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DESCRIPTION ESSENTIALS

Weapons
- Gun (type: pistol, rifle, shotgun)
- Knife (type: long, short)
- Club (type: bat, tire iron)
- Other (type: glass, bottle, vehicle)
- Explosive (type: bomb)

Person(s) (armed suspects first)
- Race
- Gender
- Age (DOB)
- Clothing
- Build/Height/Weight
- Hair color/length/style
- Other identifiable characteristics (facial hair, accent, tattoos, piercings, jewelry)
- Complexion
- Eye color
- Demeanor (calm, emotional, intoxicated)
- Name/Relationship
- Address/Phone number

Vehicle (CYMлас)
- Color
- Year
- Make/Model
- Body style
- Additional (paintwork, damage)
- License
- State/Province

Bicycle
- Type/Style
- Color
- Brand/Manufacturer
- Wheel size
- Other features

Boat (Vessel)
- Size
- Color
- Name
- Registration number
- Type (inboard, outboard, sail, cruiser, speed, racing, pontoon, ship)

Determinant Suffixes

The suffix codes help to delineate the specific type of weapon:
- C = Club
- E = Explosive
- G = Gun
- K = Knife
- M = Multiple weapon types
- O = Other

ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)

An armed person who has used any type of weapon to inflict deadly physical force on others and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.

LOCKDOWN

A response utilized by schools, businesses, or individuals that secures people in a facility or room to minimize their exposure to an ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER).

Rules

1. ASSAULT situations in which a suspect does not have unrestricted access to additional victims should be handled on Protocol 106.
2. Evacuating, if safe to do so, is the best action callers can take to save lives. However, if this is not possible, instructions for callers to go into a LOCKDOWN are critical.
3. Hostage situations developing in the course of an ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER) scenario should be handled on Protocol 136.

Axioms

1. Individuals who are found by an ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER) and cannot get away should be mentally prepared to fight for their lives by using weapons, throwing objects, acting aggressively, and yelling.
2. Most victims of the Columbine High School massacre were found in the library where students were unable to evacuate or go into a LOCKDOWN.
3. The term “active shooter” is a phrase coined by law enforcement to describe armed assailants who use deadly force on individuals while having unrestricted access to additional victims. These assailants commonly use firearms, hence the term “active shooter”; however, any weapon could be used.
4. A true LOCKDOWN supersedes a fire alarm unless the smoke or fire is an immediate life threat.

NTOA Statement

NTOA (National Tactical Officers Association) cautions against a change in police response based solely on a time delay of when shots were reportedly last heard. This time delay, by itself, does not negate the need for an immediate response. The perpetrator may be using, or preparing to use, other weapons (knives, IEDs, etc.), or her/his shots may not be audible. If the threat’s location is not known, officers should begin searching or rescue wounded victims. Officers should transition to a hostage/barricade situation, if necessary, based only on the totality of circumstances.
ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)

**Evacuation**
Get out of the building/area **even if others won’t follow. Help others escape, if possible.**
Take an evacuation path that’s **away from the suspect.**
Warn others of the situation as you escape.
**Do not** attempt to move wounded people.
**Do not** rush towards officers, keep your hands visible at all times, and follow all of their commands.
Update police with the **suspect’s description and location.**

- Can you **take the phone** with you?

**Lockdown**
Do not leave your current location if you feel the suspect will see or find you. If it’s safe to do so, gather those around you and go to the nearest room with a locking door.
Once you’re inside, lock the door and barricade it with heavy objects.
Try to **prevent** being seen. If you can, **turn off** the lights and close the drapes or blinds to **cover** any windows.
Sit or lie on the floor next to the wall with the door and be as quiet as possible.
**Silence** the ringer and **vibration mode** on your cell phone.
**Do not answer** or open the door for anyone.
If you are found and **unable** to get away, be **aggressive** and prepared to **fight** for your life by using any items you can as **weapons.** Throw objects, yell, and continue to **defend** yourself.

**Rules**
1. **ASSAULT** situations in which a suspect does not have unrestricted access to additional victims are **not ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** incidents.
2. **ACTIVE ASSAILANT (SHOOTER)** situations change rapidly, so the EPD must consider and provide the **most appropriate advice** items in this protocol to **assist** the caller.
3. At some point, phone **contact** with the caller may be **lost.** **Pre-Arrival Instructions** need to be **given early** to prepare the caller as much as possible to **escape** or **defend** themselves.

**Academy Policy**
These instructions were developed with the assistance of the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA).
The International Academy of EPD considers situations necessitating the provision of these instructions to be an extremely **High Risk-Inherent Situation Case (HiRISC)** and believes that the trained EPD (or their agency), making a good faith attempt to provide these instructions, should not be held responsible for any bad outcomes. This should not be considered a legal interpretation, but a strong official opinion of the Council of Standards and Board of Trustees of the IAEPD.