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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.
ACTIVE ATTACKER (SHOOTER)

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 offenders are involved?

3. Where's the offender now?
   a. (Offender 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 offender'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 offender appear to be wearing a bulletproof vest or body armour?

8. Did you see the offender carrying anything?
   a. (Yes) Describe it to me.

9. Did you hear the offender saying anything?
   a. (Yes) What did s/he say?

10. (Offender on scene) I need to get the offender's vehicle description…
    a. Where's the vehicle now?

11. Has the offender 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 offender leaves, tell me immediately.
   b. Do not put yourself in any (more) danger.

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

* Do computer check.

* Follow your police force's policy regarding the notification of administration, armed response teams, and bordering services.

DLS  * Link to X-1 unless:

Stay on the Line
Urgent Disconnect
Safety Disconnect
Evacuation
LOCKDOWN

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

E  1  ACTIVE ATTACKER (SHOOTER)  136-E-1
**DESCRIPTION ESSENTIALS**

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

### Person(s) (armed offenders first)
- **Race**
- **Gender**
- **Age** (DOB)
- **Clothing**
- **Build/Height/Weight**
- **Hair colour/length/style**
- **Other identifiable characteristics** (facial hair, accent, tattoos, piercings, jewellery)
- **Complexion**
- **Eye colour**
- **Demeanour** (calm, emotional, intoxicated)
- **Name/Relationship**
- **Address/Phone number**

### Vehicle
- **Colour**
- **Year**
- **Make/Model**
- **Body style** (saloon, hatchback, estate)
- **Additional** (paintwork, damage)
- **Registration number**

### Bicycle
- **Type/Style**
- **Colour**
- **Brand/Manufacturer**
- **Wheel size**
- **Other features** (frame number)

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

### 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 ATTACKER (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 utilised by schools, businesses, or individuals that secures people in a facility or room to minimise their exposure to an ACTIVE ATTACKER (SHOOTER).

### Rules

1. **ASSAULT** situations in which an offender 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 ATTACKER (SHOOTER) scenario should be handled on Protocol 136.

### Axioms

1. **Most victims** of the Columbine High School massacre in the U.S. were found in the library where students were unable to evacuate or go into a LOCKDOWN.
2. The term “active shooter” is a phrase coined by police officers to describe armed attackers who use deadly force on individuals while having unrestricted access to additional victims. These attackers commonly use firearms, hence the term “active shooter”; however, any weapon could be used.
3. 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.
**Evacuation**

1. **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 offender.
2. **Warn others** of the situation as you escape.
3. **Do not attempt to help or move** wounded people. Do not rush towards officers, keep your hands visible at all times, and follow all of their commands.
4. **Update police with the offender’s description and location.**
   - Can you take the phone with you?

   **(No)** Call us back from a safe location, if possible.

**Lockdown**

1. **Do not leave your current location** if you feel the offender 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.
2. Once you’re inside, lock the door and barricade it with heavy objects.
3. Try to prevent being seen. If you can, turn off the lights and close the curtains or blinds to cover any windows.
4. Sit or lie on the floor next to the wall with the door and be as quiet as possible.
5. Silence the ringer and vibration mode on your mobile phone.
6. Do not answer or open the door for anyone.

**Rules**

1. **ASSAULT situations in which an offender does not have unrestricted access** to additional victims are not ACTIVE ATTACKER (SHOOTER) incidents.
2. **ACTIVE ATTACKER (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.