

AVOID - DENY - DEFEND Office Security Guide



Make sure you are safe and then call UMBC Police at (410) 455-5555

Use this guide to help plan for an active assailant attack. If there are obvious signs of immediate danger like gun shots, remember **AVOID - DENY - DEFEND**. If you receive an alert and there is no obvious danger, **LOCKDOWN** your workspace.

AVOID: Recognize the source and location of danger and stay away from the attacker.

- 1) **Primary escape route.** Know the fastest way to escape your building and get outside to a safe location.
- 2) **Alternate escape route.** Know at least one other way to escape. Be careful running around blind corners.
- 3) **Exterior windows.** If there are windows to the outside? Do they open or can you break them to escape?
- 4) **What floor are you on?** Escaping through windows higher than the ground floor is extremely dangerous. Instead, find a way to signal rescuers outside. Alert them to your location and the location of the attacker.

DENY: A locked door is your best defense. Put distance and obstacles between you and the attacker.

- 5) **Doors that open IN.** If you can't lock the door, use furniture and heavy objects to barricade the door.
- 6) **Doors that open OUT.** If you can't lock the door, pull against opening with a cord or cable. Use counterforce along the same wall as the door-handle side to prevent opening from outside. This is dangerous, be ready to defend yourself.
- 7) **Interior windows.** Find a way to cover any inside windows to conceal yourself. Turn off lights, silence phones, keep calm.
- 8) **Find protection.** Are there interior rooms? Do they lock from inside? Create as many barriers as possible to deny access.
- 9) **Safe Haven.** Know designated nearby rooms that can be locked from inside and provide protection.

DEFEND: Plan and launch a counter-attack that is unexpected and violent.

- 10) **You have the right to FIGHT.** Commit yourself to violent, aggressive action. Switch your fear to anger.
- 11) **Use overwhelming force.** Work as a team. Improvise weapons from anything available to injure & immobilize the attacker.
- 12) **Take away and CONTROL the gun.** Do not risk being seen as a threat by police. Beware of multiple guns or concealed weapons to include knives.

