## 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.

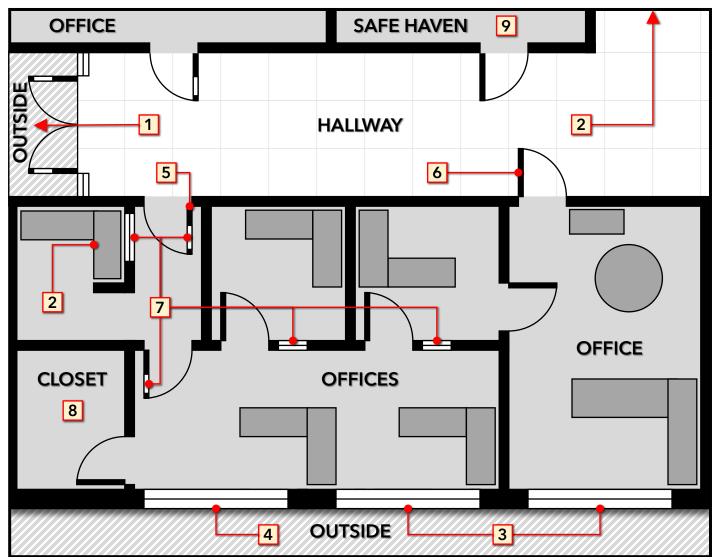
- 1) Primary escape route. Know the fastest way to escape your building and get outside to a safe location.
- 2) Alternate escape route. Know at least one other way to escape. Be careful running around blind corners.
- 3) Exterior windows. If there are windows to the outside? Do they open or can you 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.



Updated 01/23/2024 - For more information visit: https://police.umbc.edu/emergency-preparedness/active-assailant-awareness/