



Virginia Western Community College

Campus Police Department



Craig S. Harris, Chief of Police

Campus Safety Video - Alternative Script Option (2023)

RUN-HIDE-FIGHT

Hello, my name is Craig Harris and I am the Chief of Campus Police at Virginia Western Community College. Please take a moment to read this most important safety message.

The college's current five-minute safety video presentation has been developed by Virginia Western Community College as a resource that offers you potential safety options should an act of *targeted violence* take place at the campus. In an effort to provide a variety of presentation options for our students, we have developed this "script document" which includes the content covered in the online Safety Video. Thank you for taking the time to review this document and for helping us foster a safe culture at Virginia Western.

Disclaimer

Please remember; we can attempt to plan and train for many varied events. However, no planning or training is fool proof. Virginia Western in no way guarantees unconditionally the safety of every student at all times. Critical incidents are many times dynamic and are at times entirely unpredictable. This video offers no guarantees or claims as they relate to absolute safety and protection from a critical incident.

Definition

What do we mean by *targeted violence*?

Targeted violence refers to "situations in which an individual intentionally commits an act of violence against a preselected target, whether people or places" (Meloy, White & Hart 2013). It is because such tragic events are becoming much more common around the world and in the United States, that we have created the RUN HIDE FIGHT Safety Video and developed this corresponding script.

Safety Video Scenario

Imagine you've just witnessed a person walk onto your campus and from a backpack he produces what appears to be a large knife and gun. What are you going to do? Are you prepared to survive? Are you like many people going to allow your mind to talk you out of what you've just seen? Are you going to rationalize it away or explaining it away somehow? **OR** are you going to take action and do something???

You should remember what you saw, trust your instincts and call 911. Make this call while getting clear of the area. Warn people that you pass along the way of the danger. Take ownership of the situation and trust the inner voice that tells you to do something!

It is time for our community to progress from merely sitting quietly and still, to giving you permission to take ownership of your own personal safety.

You should know that Virginia Western has changed as it relates to our response to an active shooter or threat. While we still support locking down as our primary campus response to an active threat, we realize with our ever-growing open spaces this will not always be possible for you. Because of this reality we have adopted the nationally recognized concept of: **RUN... HIDE... FIGHT**.

Virginia Western has always taken campus safety seriously, but in light of the recent increase in targeted campus violence, we want you to be prepared to survive. Please know if such an incident occurs law enforcement will be coming.

However, in the very important time leading up to police arrival we seek your determination for keeping yourself safe. Remember; if you are able to LOCKDOWN please do so; this remains the best courses of action. But if locking down is not a viable option we ask that you consider RUNNING and/or HIDING. If these options are not feasible and you have no reasonable option left to protect yourself from harm, we support your decision to fight the aggressor so you may escape imminent harm.

Remember; LOCKDOWN if you can! If this is not an available option, we now advocate

RUN–HIDE–FIGHT as you feel appropriate for your own personal safety.

Notification Tools

Virginia Western has several notification tools to alert you of an incident. The two most obvious alarms are the external siren and the classroom telephones. The external siren is loud enough to be heard in most outdoor areas of the campus. The phone system produces an audible alarm and verbal notification of the campus emergency status. In the event of an incident, a message should be broadcast over every classroom phone on campus.

The VWTV monitors in the hallways will generate an alert message. Throughout the campus hallways there are Blue Pull Stations that are labeled LOCKDOWN. These pull stations have been deployed so students, faculty and staff can immediately activate the lockdown system if a shooter is observed on campus.

***NOTICE:** Virginia Western's blue pull stations have cameras monitoring them. The pulling of these alarms as a ruse, joke or as a general false alarm is a violation of the law. [§ 18.2-461](#). Falsely summoning or giving false reports to law-enforcement officials. This is a class 1 misdemeanor with a 12-month jail sentence attached and Virginia Western will prosecute violators to the fullest extent.*

We ask that you take a moment and sign up for VW Alert text alert system. The link (opt in/opt out) can be found on Virginia Western's [website](#). VW Alert will text your devices and sends you emails to notify you about evolving campus incidents, as well as weather and school closings.

Please remember, if you see or hear of anything suspicious on campus let us know without delay, inform an instructor, a staff member, or the police department. Remember, if it is an emergency dial 911. You will not get into trouble if you are wrong - and you might just save lives in the end.

Thank you for your support,
Chief Craig S. Harris

Reference:

Meloy JR, White SG, Hart SD. (2013). Workplace Assessment of Targeted Violence Risk: The Development and Reliability of the WAVR-21. *Journal of Forensic Science*, 58(5): 1353-1358. doi: 10.1111/1556-4029.12196

Response and Supplemental information VWCC Campus Safety Video

LOCKDOWN

In the event of a serious incident unfolding on campus our primary campus response is **LOCKDOWN**.

Classroom doors have push locks as do most office suites. **LOCK THE DOOR**

If you have time, barricade the door with any available furniture (desks, tables, chairs).

Turn out the classroom lights and move to an area out of direct line of sight of the door.

Silence cell phones and remain quiet.

Quietly help calm those around you who may be visibly upset.

Remain in place until law enforcement arrives or the area becomes unsafe.

Your option of RUN/HIDE

If you cannot get locked down in a secured room or are in an unsafe area, you may opt to either **RUN** and/or **HIDE**.

Choosing one or both of these options is up to you.

You may get clear from the threat area by **RUNNING** away from it, if safe to do so.

If you **RUN**, be observant of possible places you may hide if it becomes necessary.

While you **RUN** warn people around you of the danger and tell them to get clear.

If you elect to **HIDE** instead of run do so quickly, staying out of sight, quiet, and still.

Hiding may simply be finding a space that is out of view of an attacker (i.e.: under a desk, behind a couch or door, in a rest room stall, anyplace you can be concealed).

Hiding behind or within heavy objects if available, may offer added protection (i.e.: file cabinet, car, and tree).

Your option to FIGHT

If locking down, running and hiding are not feasible and an attack appears imminent it will be your judgment whether to defend yourself, you have the right and our consent to **FIGHT** your attacker.

You should **FIGHT** to defend yourself from bodily injury, with the ultimate goal of escaping the threat and getting away.

REMEMBER you are FIGHTING to ESCAPE from imminent harm!!

The primary challenge with fighting your attacker is the basic decision to do so or not. If ultimately you deem this to be your last and only option, I ask that you do one thing; I ask that you fight like you have never fought

before; your life depends on it. There are no rules, no halfhearted efforts you must go beyond what you think you're capable of to get free and clear of the threat. We empower you to survive!

Fire Alarms or Bomb Threats

For incidents involving fire alarm activation and evacuations we ask that you follow these universal procedures:

Familiarize yourselves with the classroom and building emergency exit plans that are posted in your classrooms.

Study the exit routes. If a planned exit is blocked due to fire, know which exit you should use as an alternative.

Exit the building quickly and quietly following the directions of your instructor, a college staff member or building coordinator.

Once you have exited the building you will be expected to meet in a designated assembly area. This location will be noted on the evacuation plan found in your classroom.

In this designated area you will be accounted for and advised of further instruction.

Please do not leave the classroom group and go to your car or wander off to another location on campus.

It is critical that everybody be accounted for, so emergency first responders are not placed in further danger because they now must look for you.

Weather Incidents

Severe weather in the Roanoke Valley, although rare, is possible. We must prepare for such events and be ready to respond in a moment's notice.

Tornado's, high wind, flooding, ice and significant snow are but a few of the potential weather-related issues we should prepare for.

In the event of imminent significant weather, you may be notified by one of the following; text alert, campus wide telephone page.

In the event of severe weather, please respond accordingly to the messages you receive through the alert mechanisms. Should a tornado present itself in the immediate area seek cover in interior hallways and bathrooms on the ground floor of the building you occupy.

Do not run for your car or exit a building unless there is an immediate danger of building collapse, or in your judgment the area is critically unsafe.

Once you have arrived in your area of shelter, remain there until you are advised by first responders that it is safe to exit.

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