

Appendix C: Active Armed Offender Attack – Initial Action Advice for Individuals

When attacks involving firearms and other weapons occur it is important to be prepared to react quickly. Considering your potential options and actions in advance will help you to make more informed decisions quickly in a stressful and chaotic environment. The following advice may help with pre-planning your response options.

ESCAPE

Your priority action should be to remove yourself and others from close proximity to the offender/s, or areas that they might reasonably access. The following actions may influence the decisions you make in safely assessing your available options:

Under immediate attack - Take cover initially, but attempt to leave the area as soon as it is safe to do so.

- Leave most of your belongings behind (except for mobile phone);
- Do not congregate in open areas or wait at evacuation points;
- Provide guidance to people that might be unfamiliar with the area;
- Make good use of available cover and concealment opportunities; and,
- Consider (only as a last resort) options for arming yourself with improvised weapons to defend yourself in the event that you are located by the offender.

Nearby attack - Leave the area immediately and move quickly from where the attack is located, but only if it is safe to do so.

Cover from gunfire

- Brickwork or concrete walls;
- Vehicles (engine block area);
- Large trees & fixed objects; and,
- Earth banks/hills/mounds.

Concealment from view (in addition to above options)

- Building walls and partitions (internal and external);
- Vehicles;
- Fences and other large structures; and,
- Blinds/curtains.

HIDE

If you don't believe you can safely evacuate, then you may need to consider sheltering in place. Constantly re-assess the situation and your options based on the best available information.

- Avoid congregating in open areas, such as corridors and foyers;
- Consider locking or barricading yourself and others in a room or secure area;
- Secure your immediate environment and other vulnerable areas;
- Move away from the door, remain quiet and stay there until told otherwise by appropriate authorities, or you need to move for safety reasons;
- Silence mobile phones and other devices that may identify your presence;
- Try to contact police (000) or others to advise of your location and situation;
- Assess and re-assess better options for sheltering in place either within your current location or at an alternative location;
- Choose a location which may enable access to a more secure area; and
- Consider (only as a last resort) options for arming yourself with improvised weapons to defend