

## **SECURITY PREPAREDNESS FOR CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY**

In response to school shootings seen across university and college campuses, Cedarville University has taken a proactive approach to address this significant issue. In the aftermath of the Columbine, Sandy Hook, and Virginia Tech shootings, lessons have been learned throughout the law enforcement community that have changed how we approach and prepare for an active shooter situation.

As we have seen in these types of shootings across the country, if an individual is determined to carry out an act of violence at the university, there is little that can be done to prevent it. In most cases, these active shooters use a firearm and have no pattern or method in how they select their victims. Because of this, these shootings are unpredictable and evolve quickly, resulting in loss of life or injury. Therefore, it is imperative that our campus community understand the warning signs to look for, notify Campus Security (937) 239-6491 or the Cedarville Police Department (911), and know how to respond if an active shooter incident occurs on campus.

### **Remain Alert for Signs of Trouble:**

Being aware of the warning signs that an active shooter situation may occur is the first step to preventing such an attack. According to [Homeland Security's Active Shooter Attacks](#), potential warning signs include:

- Increasingly erratic, unsafe, or aggressive behaviors.
- Hostile behavior based on claims of injustice or perceived wrongdoing.
- Drug and alcohol abuse.
- Claims of marginalization or distancing from friends and colleagues.
- Changes in performance at work.
- Sudden and dramatic changes in home life or in personality.
- Financial difficulties.
- Pending civil or criminal litigation.
- Observable grievances and making statements of retribution.

We encourage all of our faculty, staff, and students to pay attention to drastic changes in fellow students or coworkers and immediately report any escalating behavior to Campus Security or the Cedarville Police Department.

## **What To Do in the Case of an Active Shooter:**

If an active shooter incident occurs on campus, Cedarville University has adopted the [Homeland Security's RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT response method](#). This response is outlined in the University's [Active Shooter Response Plan](#).

- **Run** – evacuate the building or section of the building where you are located as rapidly as possible when you first learn of the threat, as long as it is safe for you to do so without exposing yourself to further harm. You can exit through the exterior doors or consider using a window, if necessary, by breaking your way out. Strike window glass at the top or bottom corners. Leave your belongings behind. Keep your hands visible if you see law enforcement or rescue personnel in the area. Move as far away from the threat as possible.
- **Hide** - if you are unable to evacuate or you are located in another building away from the immediate threat, then you should go into lockdown. This is accomplished by going to a securable room and locking yourself inside, by barricading the doors with desks, tables, chairs, file cabinets, or any other object that can prevent or slow down entry by a perpetrator. Turn off the lights and turn down your cell phones. Pull shades on the windows if applicable and remain quiet. Do not huddle together in one location.
- **Fight** – if all else fails and as a last resort, attempt to stop the perpetrator by any means necessary. You can throw items at them to cause a distraction. Strike the person with chairs, discharge a fire extinguisher at them, or wrestle them to the floor. Act with physical aggression and commit yourself to your actions.

Videos entitled "RUN. HIDE. FIGHT. Surviving an Active Shooter Event" and "Five tips for Surviving a Workplace Shooting" are available on the [Campus Security](#) website.

In response to the security needs of Cedarville University, Campus Security has implemented specific procedures that include:

- The incorporation of surveillance cameras and access control technology,
- Security procedures and training requirements,
- Adhering to best practices for university and college campuses that comply with the Department of Education's recommendations and requirements for Campus Security under the Federal Campus Security Act of 1990 (Clery Act).

A link to our report published in October of 2021 provides details on how we manage campus security at Cedarville University. [Annual Campus Security & Fire Safety Report 2021](#)

### **Specific Crisis Response Training:**

The Campus Security Department works diligently to ensure that all department members are trained in accordance with best practices for responding to an active threat/shooter situation. Each full-time officer has completed the OPOTA private security firearms training and has obtained their state license. Officers also participate in active shooter training and drill exercises each semester on campus. In addition to active shooter training, officers undergo regular handgun and rifle qualifications with an OPOTA-certified firearms instructor.

### **Local Law Enforcement Support:**

Our Campus Security Department works closely with the Cedarville Police and the Greene County Sheriff's Office. The local police often patrol through our campus and will respond as a backup to any situations that pose a potential threat that may require direct law enforcement assistance. Cedarville University also contracts with the Cedarville Police Department for services such as traffic control, additional security at special events, etc.

### **Emergency Mass Notification System:**

In accordance with best practices and requirements by the Department of Education (DOE) Campus Security (Clery Act), the university maintains a mass notification system through a service provider called "Regroup." The system is used to notify everyone who has signed up for the service of any on-campus emergency through emails, text messages, voicemails, and the MyCU portal. All students are automatically enrolled, and the others in the campus community

are encouraged to enroll in this service. This service is also used to provide updates throughout the emergency. This service is available on a 24/7 basis and formally tested two (2) times each year. The [emergency evacuation plan](#) is sent out for everyone's awareness in this emergency test. This provides information and awareness for all campus community members relative to our campus security procedures.

This type of system is imperative in managing any crisis in a university campus environment.

### **Physical Security Measures (Access Control and Cameral Surveillance Systems):**

The university continues to emphasize security throughout the campus through the implementation and use of access control systems, surveillance technology, and other tools.

### **Our Response to an Active Shooter:**

It is our policy that, in an active shooter situation, immediate action deemed reasonable to prevent further injuries or loss of life will be taken by officers at the scene. Cedarville University Campus Security is committed to responding quickly and appropriately to address any emergency situation on campus, i.e., an active shooter, severe weather, health crisis, or any other emergency.

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