

GECO Active Shooter Safety (Revised 7/2022)

An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is often no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

Although there is no one, standard response to a given active shooter event, these policies and suggestions are offered to help respond to the danger.

1. GECO policy is to keep all exterior doors locked during regular school hours. Our Front Door Monitors are tasked with allowing entry to recognized persons only. If suspicious individuals are seen in the vicinity, the Monitors may place the building on Lock-Down until the threat is cleared.
2. GECO and Mission Dorado Church have no restrictions on License To Carry individuals being legally armed while on the premises.
3. Most of our classrooms have windows that may be used for emergency exit if needed.
4. The following is from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, www.dhs.gov

Active Shooter – How To Respond

EVACUATE- If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. **Be sure to:**

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be
- Keep your hands visible
- Follow the instructions of any police officers
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
- Call 911 when you are safe

HIDE OUT- If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. **Your hiding place should:**

- Be out of the active shooter's view

- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
- Not trap you or restrict your options for movement

To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture.

If the active shooter is nearby:

- Lock the door
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager
- Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
- Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
- Remain quiet.

If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:

- Remain calm
- Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen

TAKE ACTION- against the active shooter as a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions