



Imminent Threat / Violent Situation on Campus



Brock University Emergency Numbers

Department / Individual	Contact Info
Emergency Services (Police, Fire, EMS)	911
Campus Security Services	EMERGENCY: 905-688-5550 EXT: 3200 NON-EMERGENCY Main Campus: 905-688-5550 EXT: 4300 NON-EMERGENCY MWS Campus: 905-688-5550 EXT: 6300 Email: security@brocku.ca Twitter: @BrockSecurity Web-page: Campus Security Services
Manager, Emergency Management & Life Safety	T - 905-688-5550 EXT: 3130 E-mail – rfraser2@brocku.ca Twitter: @Brocklifesafety
Human Resources & Health, Safety & Wellness	Brock Be Safe T – 905-688-5550 ext.: 7233 Email: besafe@brocku.ca
Facilities Management	T – 905-688-5550 ext.: 3717 Web-page: Brock Facilities Management
Student Health Services	T – 905-688-5550 ext.: 3243 Twitter: @BrockSHS Web-page: Student Health Services (SHS)
Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre (SWAC)	T – 905-688-5550 ext.: 3240 Web-page: Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre (SWAC) Brock’s Mental Health & Wellness website

What is an Imminent Threat / Violent Situation?

You Can Prepare Yourself

You can make a difference simply by imagining various scenarios playing out in the places you take classes, study or work. Where are the exits? Do the doors lock? What would make a good barricade? What would make a good weapon? Ask yourself “What if...?” This kind of thinking is helpful in preparing for all kinds of emergency, wherever you may go.

Active Shooter Defined

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(s) and there is no apparent pattern or method to how they choose their victims. Active shooter situations evolve quickly and there is no way to anticipate their course. Typically, the immediate deployment of police is needed to stop the shooting and mitigate harm. Active shooter situations can be over within 10 to 15 minutes. For this reason, it is important that you are prepared to act quickly to protect yourself.

These are the most serious or potentially serious of situations which could occur within the Brock University Campus, in addition to an Active Shooter, other Imminent Threat situations may include:

- An unsafe environment to evacuate outside your area;
- Serious approaching weather conditions (i.e. tornado);
- Hazardous substance spill;
- Any serious or potentially serious threatening situation where persons inside the university buildings must Shelter in Place/Lock Down for their own safety.

It will require co-ordination and pre-planning with all Faculty and Staff within ALL University Departments and we referred to as the **‘SHELTER IN PLACE/LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES’**.

This will occur when it may **NOT BE SAFE TO EVACUATE** the building or area you are presently in, as you may be evacuating into **DANGER**; evacuation should only occur when the direction is given by authorities OR if the opportunity presents itself and it would not endanger you or anyone else by doing so.

When this procedure is in effect, **ACCESS TO CAMPUS** will be limited to authorized personnel and emergency response personnel and vehicles.

How will I be Notified of these situations?

You may become aware that a threat or potential threat is occurring on the Brock Campus. Notification will come from a variety of methods.

- E-mail
- Telephone message (voice mail)
- Announcement where the capability exists to do so
- Campus Security Service Staff
- Other students, staff or faculty
- Media
- Brock University Main Web Page
- The message will advise the recipients to move to SHELTER IN PLACE/ LOCK DOWN PROCEDURE.
- NOTE: While enroute to the Brock Campus in your daily routine, we suggest that you monitor local radio stations in the event the campus is not accessible.

About the Police

Niagara Regional Police Services (NRPS), like other police response agencies has an active shooter program in place and it is called School Police Emergency Action Response (SPEAR). SPEAR is a program that designs and distributes school tactical response and evacuation plans. It is an effort between the community and police to make schools a safer place for attendees and staff. SPEAR safety plans prepare police, firefighters, paramedics, and school staff, for violent and hazardous events at or near a school.



You might be surprised by the actions of the police in an active shooter situation; to be clear, their first and primary priority will be to find and stop the shooter. Second, the police might not know exactly what the shooter looks like so they have to consider you a possible threat until ruled otherwise. For that reason, if you encounter police, do not run toward them. Remain calm. Keep your hands visible. Follow instructions.

“Shelter in Place/Lock Down”

Secure Immediate Area

- Gather as many people as you can that are within your immediate area.
- Wherever you are at the time of notification is most likely the safest place to remain unless notified otherwise.
- If in a common area i.e. hallway or open space, find a classroom or office preferably with computer access or hardline phone access.
- Lock and/or barricade the door where possible.
- Make the room or area you are in appear unoccupied.
- Turn off lights or maintain minimal lighting.
- Close any blinds on windows.
- Quiet cell phones.
- Remain calm and assist others with you in remaining quiet and out of sight.
- Take adequate cover/protection i.e. concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets.

Communicate

Designate one person to communicate for your group, any threat, injury and location to:

- 911
- Campus Security Ext: 3200/4300
- [Campus Security Services E-mail](#)

Monitor

- University Communications at the [Brock University web site](#) or via voice mail messaging.

Get Out – Hide – Fight

Research has shown that most active shooter events end within minutes and active risk is often over before first responders arrive on the scene.

This is not a replacement of Brock's existing "Lock-down/Shelter-in-Place" procedure, which is applicable to an Active Shooter emergency, is also applicable to many other emergencies that prevent us from evacuating classrooms, buildings or the campus.

- Get out:
 - Getting out is by far the best option if you believe you can escape safely? This is why it is a good idea to make mental notes of means of escape wherever you may be on campus. If you hear something that could be gunshots, do not wait: get out.
- Hide:
 - Hide if you do not know exactly where the shooting is happening or it is too late to escape safely. Get behind a lockable door if you can. Barricade the door. Improvise with any object you can to prevent someone from entering.
 - Once you are hidden, silence your phone, turn off the lights and stay quiet. If your spot is secure, be prepared to remain there until the police come to you with the all clear.
 - ONLY in situations such as this should a building fire alarms be ignored; occupants will NOT evacuate unless otherwise informed by-way of the voice communication system, emergency notification system or the emergency services.
- Fight:
 - Fighting is your absolute last resort. You would only confront an active shooter if you somehow were trapped in a space with no escape. Active shooters typically do not respond to reason so you must assume they intend to harm you. Find an object you can use to strike the shooter with; trip them with a chair; be as aggressive as you can; do anything you can to stop them.

You will need to decide if you can do this. Remember, it is your decision.

How to contact Authorities

- Dial **911**
- Campus Security Services: 905-688-5550, Ext. 3200, 4300
- Email [Campus Security Services](#)
- Be aware that the 911 system and cell phone functionality will likely be overwhelmed.
- Program the Brock Campus Security Services emergency number extension into your cell phone.
- E-mail may be an option if you are unable to speak or if unsuccessful in your phone attempts.

Information You Need to Report

- Your specific location – building and office/room number.
- Number of people at your specific location.
- Any injuries, number injured types of injuries.
- If you have seen or heard an assailant or a perceived threat report:
 - Location
 - number of suspects
 - direction of travel
 - race/gender
 - description and clothing
 - weapon
 - backpack
 - identity, if known
 - unusual or identifiable threatening sounds i.e., gunfire, explosion

Identifying a Person at Risk

There is no way to accurately predict who is on the way to becoming an active shooter, but there are behaviors that can indicate someone is in trouble. Be aware of the signs.

Behavioral changes: angry outbursts, agitation, poor hygiene, visible weight change, intimidation and bullying, altercations with others, intoxication or substance abuse, uttering hostile or offensive remarks, strange or disturbing behavior

Performance: repeated absences, missed deadlines, significant drop in performance, inappropriate or incoherent writing, frequently interrupting, and disruptive behavior

Social/Emotional: significant problems interacting with others, isolated or withdrawn, extreme or prolonged sadness, emotional outbursts, devoid of any emotions, erratic mood swings, excessive fatigue.

Reporting a Concern

If someone is committing violence, or about to commit violence, at the university, call 911 &/or CSS at ext. 3200

If you are worried about something, you observe, contact Campus Security Services at 905-688-5550, ext. 3200 OR simply dial 3200 from any internal phone.

Questions and Answers

1. Why are you promoting this kind of education when the scenario is so unlikely?

- There are three reasons for bringing this information to you:
 - PSE emergency planners believe this material could save a life, whether on a campus or anywhere else, people may travel.
 - Emergency planners are frequently asked for this information and we are responding to that request. People with this information often report that it brings a sense of empowerment and peace of mind.
 - Finally, the information can be generalized. You can employ the thought process to prepare for any kind of emergency. This information encourages you to ask that powerful “What if” question.

2. Usually we are taught to just phone the police and wait when there is a crime. You are telling me to actually take actions. This is very different.

- Active shooter events happen very fast. They evolve quickly and are typically over in a matter of minutes. The police will come, but you need to think about those few minutes before they arrive, and you should have an idea of what to do when they do arrive.

3. Are you really suggesting attacking a person who has a gun?

- Keep in mind this is the last resort. Active shooters usually continue until something happens to stop them. If you are trapped with nowhere to go, it might be your only choice. Nobody can force you to take this step, but you should at least be aware it is an option. What you do in such a situation is your own decision.

4. As a student, I move around all day. I am in several different rooms and spaces. Am I supposed to have a detailed plan for everywhere I go?

- No, it is not practical to have a detailed plan for every situation. However, you can take a moment in various locations to ask, “What if?” It will prompt you to make a mental note of exits and possible hiding places. That small amount of forethought could make the critical difference in how you react in a real emergency.

5. Are instructors expected to take the lead in an actual emergency such as this?

- It is impossible to predict how anyone will react in such an extreme event. Any one of us is capable of becoming a leader with the presence of mind to remember what to do and to take action. It might be an instructor, a member of administration, a member of support staff or a student.
- With this education, we are all equally prepared to make informed decisions for ourselves.

6. I have never heard a gunshot in real life. How will I know one if I hear one?

- The sound of gunfire can vary a lot. Sometimes it can sound like a firecracker. Sometimes it is more like a pop or a loud bang. Gunshots sound different inside and outside. It probably will not sound like you expect it to sound. The sound of gunfire on your campus, however, will be out of the ordinary. Listen and look for other clues and if there is any doubt in your mind, treat the situation as though it is gunfire.

7. Am I expected to save others from a shooter, such as people that might have mobility issues or freeze up, for example?

- You are not expected to be a hero. You must do what is right for you. If you are confident you can help others without putting yourself in unnecessary danger, you may choose to do so.

8. Does this education only apply when I am on campus?

- No, the principles are the same wherever you are.

9. I have just watched the video and now feel anxious and upset. What do I do?

- It is okay to be upset. It can be helpful to talk to someone about your response. Most people find it helpful to talk with friends or colleagues. If the subject matter is especially distressing to you, however, there are resources available:
 - If you are a Brock University student, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre \(SWAC\)](#), located in the Schmon Tower, ST400 or in [Student Health Services \(SHS\)](#) building, located in Harrison Hall
 - Between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. contacts are as follows:
 - SDC (Schmon Tower – ST400) call 905-688-5550 ext. 3240
 - Student Health Services (Harrison Hall) call 905-68-5550 ext. 3243
 - Access help from our urgent support **1-833-276-2533 (1-833-BROCK33)** or **001 416 382 3257** when out of the country
 - 24/7 Contacts can be found on Brock's [Mental Health & Wellness](#) site.
 - If you are a member of Brock University staff/faculty, you can contact [Human Resources](#).
 - You also have the option of the anonymous, 24-hour support available through Ontario Mental Health Helpline. [Find information here about the Mental Health Help Line](#) or call directly: 1-866-531-2600.