

Our Lady of Lourdes “Active Shooter” Action Plan Sheet 2019

Introduction of Supervisor or Officer Presenting

Good Morning, if you do not know me, I am Lieutenant Joe Sperry with the Henrico County Police Department and a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church for the past 30 years. I am also been a member of the Safety and Security Committee as well. I have been employed with Henrico County Police for 32 years and currently work as a Watch Commander on Day Watch in the Central Station, which patrols this area. The reason I am here to speak with you all is to start your thinking process on what you would do if an Active Shooter or Intruder entered the building during mass or an event you were attending in the church, school or anywhere with the intention of wanting to cause mass casualties. Think about the recent Incidents such as:

Ascension Parish and Livingston Parish. Louisiana January 26, 2019

- 5 People Killed
- 12 People Injured

Virginia Beach, Virginia Shooting, May 31, 2019

- 12 People Killed
- 5 People Injured

El Paso, Texas Walmart Incident August 3, 2019

- 22 People Killed
- More than two dozen people Injured

Dayton, Ohio Incident outside a nightclub August 3, 2019

- 9 People Killed
- 27 People Injured

When you think about all the shooting incidents in the United States you need to realize that it can happen anywhere or anytime. The reason I am speaking with you all is to prepare for the when? Not the If it happens?

Building Security Information

- All exterior doors to the church during events and masses except the front doors should always be closed secured and locked from outside entry.
- The front doors of the church will remain open until the start of mass for entry and exit. No other doors should be used to enter or exit the building during events.
- Once mass has started the exterior doors to the building will be closed, but available for entry into the commons area
- The elevator during mass will be turned off by the ushers and then turned back on after mass has ended
- The interior doors to the sanctuary will be closed and locked from the outside with the ability to exit if needed during mass
- Ushers by the doors will observe anyone who wants to enter after mass has started before opening a door for entry into sanctuary

Active Shooter Incident/Mass Casualty Generated Incidents Response by Parishioners

If an active shooter incident occurs during an event, mass or anywhere you are at, there are only three options available to you that can save your life or the life of others. Flight, Lock and Hide and Fight. I am going to talk about each one these.

- **Flight Option**-Exit the building as fast as you can helping others along the way away from shots being fired or the intruder such as; side exit doors in the church, knocking out a plate glass window etc. Use whatever means you have available to create an exit point for yourself and others.
- **Lock and Hide option**- If you are in the bathroom or another room in this building and you can lock the door, do so, but first get as many people as you can into the room before locking and barricading the door with furniture, boxes, etc. You then need to stay away from the door pull blinds down and hide if possible.
- If you cannot run away from the situation then get down on the floor and be quiet and still until someone helps you exit the building or help arrives
- **Fight option**-This is the last resort, if you cannot get out of the building or in a room to lock and hide. You need to get down on the floor and be quiet and still until someone helps you exit the building or help arrives. You also need a game plan on how you are going to attack the Shooter or Intruder to give yourself time or others time to get out of the building if the situation arises.

Concealed Weapons in Church

- Virginia law allows carrying a weapon in a place of worship “with good and sufficient reason”.
- A church, just like any other private property owner, can choose to prohibit carrying a firearm on its property, which is what Our Lady of Lourdes has decided.

Concealed Weapons Prohibited in Church Reasoning

- While carrying a concealed weapon in church is legal by VA Code if approved by the property owner, it creates a huge concern and safety issue for officers responding to a scene and citizens involved in an “Active Shooter” incident.
- Officers responding may think that you are the “Shooter” during an incident or you could be distracting the officers responding from addressing the imminent threat an “Active Shooter”.

Summary

During an Active Shooter Incident or Mass Casualty Generated Incident, there is going to be a lot of chaos, screaming and confusion and loss of life along with injuries, but try to stay calm and think about your options of flight, lock and hide or fight. Someone must take control of the situation and direct people to the exits or tell them what to do to gain control of the situation. Working together as a group during a mass casualty incident can not only save lives but stabilize a volatile situation until law enforcement and fire personnel arrive on scene. I will be in the commons after mass if you have any questions or concerns you want to talk about.