



Northern Kentucky Police Chief's Association, INC.
P.O. Box 18784
Erlanger, KY 41018-0784

Response to an Active Threat Event

An Active Threat event involves one or more individuals' intent on causing physical harm and/or death to as many people as possible. These incidents can occur anywhere. An Active Threat event will result in law enforcement and other safety and emergency services immediately responding to the scene. Prior to their response, those already on the scene, such as school officials, faculty, staff, and students must be afforded the knowledge to be able to keep themselves safe. In the past, a simple lockdown was the accepted response to such an event, however analyses of these events have shown that a lockdown may not always be the most prudent choice. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, International Association of Chiefs of Police, along with other professional associations have completed analytical studies of Active Threat events. As a result of these studies, recommendations have been made that schools, businesses, and other organizations employ a preparatory response strategy that is more universal than just a lockdown.

In 2014, a committee was formed from the Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association (NKPCA) along with representatives from the Diocese of Covington to examine the need for a unified approach to Active Threat events for the Diocese of Covington Schools. After research and discussion, the committee recommended that all Diocesan schools adopt a preparatory response strategy such as Run, Hide, Fight or ALICE (Alert – Lockdown – Inform – Counter – Evacuate). This recommendation was that all faculty and staff be taught, however the decision on whether to present the concept to the students should be left up to each individual school. Since that time, the NKPCA has assisted the Diocese with this goal through instruction or coordination between individual schools and their local police departments. As an Active Threat instructor myself, I have either trained, assisted with training, or coordinated the training for faculty and staff for multiple Diocesan schools in Active Threat response methodology. I have also presented the program to the student body of some of these schools as well.

On December 9th, I will be offering the Active Threat presentation to the students at St. Anthony School. All faculty and staff at St. Anthony have already been trained in the Active Threat response concepts. The presentation on December 9th will only involve talking to the students. There will not be any videos or demonstrations. The students will be addressed in language that is appropriate to their grade levels. Many students will have questions and will be encouraged to talk to their parents about the topic. The teachers will also reinforce information from the presentation to the students afterward.

It is not the intention to alarm students, rather the goal is to afford them with the knowledge and skill that could save their lives should they ever face such a situation. In many respects, preparing students for dangerous events is not a new concept. Safety exercises such as fire and tornado drills have been practiced for years. Although the chances of an Active Threat event at St. Anthony School are very remote, prudence would still dictate that it should be prepared for. While it is an unfortunate circumstance that we must prepare for the reality of such an event, ignoring the current climate of potential violence in our culture will not lessen the chances of it affecting us.

Sincerely,

Col. Christopher J. Schutte MPA
Past President
Northern Kentucky Police Chief's Association

If you would like for your child not to attend the ***Response to an Active Threat Event*** assembly, please fill out the information below and sign your name.

Student(s) name(s) and homeroom(s): _____