High-Rise Active Shooter
Building Owners and Managers Association
Emergency Preparedness Committee Workshop

Jeff Ellis & Jackson Talbot
Developed in Collaboration with:
San Francisco Police Department:
Homeland Security Unit
Definition

A person who is actively committing homicide and/or serious bodily injury
Topics of Discussion

- How will you know?
- What should security do **WHEN** it happens?
- What should tenants do?
- What *will* tenants do?
- What should Building Staff do?
- What will police do?
- How do we handle the aftermath?
How will you know?

- Sounds
  - Gunshots/Explosions
  - Yelling and screaming
- Alarms
  - Fire alarms or other alarms
  - Duress buttons activated
- Notifications
  - Building staff (radio)
  - Tenants (phone)
How will you know? (cont.)

- Deliberate blockage of the emergency exit doors:
  - clamping of device(s) on the emergency exit and other entrance/exit points
  - chaining, cabling or securing of the emergency exit and regular doors so as to prevent escape
  - Police arriving with guns drawn
  - People self-evacuating
What will Security do?

- Immediate lock down
- Recall elevators
- Begin Your Shooter checklist
- Notify 911 from emergency line (analog line ideally)
- If doors are blocked, position officers to evacuate tenants down through alternate location (garage level, other floor, etc.).
- Make appropriate building announcements
  - Shelter in Place (Hide Out)
  - If you are in a huge canyon with lots of places to hide and the gunman is standing at the only exit… **GET BEHIND A ROCK** and wait for the cavalry to arrive
VIOLENCE / ARMED INTRUDER

SELECT AFFECTED FLOORS

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE
WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF AN ARMED (MAN/WOMAN) IN THE
BUILDING. DO NOT PANIC!
LOCK YOUR DOORS AND IMMEDIATELY TAKE COVER UNDER A DESK. STAY
UNDER COVER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE ALL CLEAR. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN
NOTIFIED. DO NOT PANIC, STAY UNDER COVER, THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR
WAY. ------- (REPEAT EVERY 2 MINUTES UNTIL POLICE ARRIVAL)

UPON POLICE ARRIVAL GIVE ‘UPDATE’ MESSAGE

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE
THIS IS SECURITY
POLICE ARE ON SITE AND ARE INVESTIGATING THE REPORTS OF AN ARMED
INTRUDER IN THE BUILDING.
PLEASE REMAIN UNDER COVER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE ALL CLEAR.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE YOU AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS ---
(REPEAT )
(REPEAT EVERY 5 MINUTES UNTIL THREAT IS CLEARED)

WAIT FOR POLICE TO SAY “ALL CLEAR”

WHEN DIRECTED BY POLICE GIVE ‘RETURN TO NORMAL’ MESSAGE

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED US THAT THE THREAT REPORT HAS
BEEN CLEARED AND BUILDING OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO
NORMAL.

REPEAT ENTIRE MESSAGE
What to report

- Your specific location/building name, cross street and office/room number
- **Location** of suspect(s)
- **Activity** of suspect(s)
- **Number** of suspect(s)
- **Description** of suspect(s)
- **Dangers**
- Your call back number
- Stay on the line until police arrive
What to report (Cont)

- Number of persons at your specific location
  - Injured and non-injured
  - Tenants and security personnel

- SFPD RED BOOK
  - Template For A Plan
What should tenants and guests do?

- Lock and barricade doors
- Turn off lights
- Close blinds
- Block windows
- Turn off radios and computer monitors
- Keep occupants calm, quiet and out of sight
- Keep yourself out of sight and take adequate cover and protection, i.e. concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets (cover may protect you from bullets)
- Silence cell phones
- Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons

*A CALMER SCENE BENEFITS FIRST RESPONDERS*
What will tenants do?

- Tenants might:
  - Pull fire alarms
  - Mistake police responders for shooters
  - Self-evacuate
  - Call Security, Building Office or 911
- Tenants will look to Security to make announcements and offer reassurance
- Tenants may expect Security to rescue people, start treatment or search the building
What should Building Staff do?

- Cooperate in every way
- Keep hands in sight
- Do not yell, point or approach police officers
- Do not expect police to do anything but try to find and stop the shooter
- Do Not Play HERO (you are not James Bond)
What will police do?

Police objective:

- **LOCATE AND STOP THE SHOOTER**
- Encounter shooter quickly and force surrender
- First units will **not stop** for casualties or frightened people
What will police do? (cont.)

- May or may not not be in uniform
- Will not stop or deal with civilians
  - Primary objective of first units responding are to STOP the threat!!
  - Secondary units may assist with wounded
  - Officers may seem “short tempered”, or “abrupt”. Don’t take it personal.
- Should have SFPD Star Displayed and Raid Jacket
SFPD Plain Clothes Identifiers

• Seven point star
• Raid Jacket
• Identification
How do we handle the aftermath?

- Building is a Crime Scene **Don’t Touch**
- Cooperate with police, and authorities
- Follow chain of command exclusively
- Do not make statements to press or public
  - “NO COMMENT” is a statement
  - Instead, direct them to an appropriate point of contact (PIO, BUILDING OFFICE, ETC.)
- Advise family contact that you are OK.
Conclusions

- This is going to happen to your team at the most inconvenient time you can imagine.
- Prepare with that in mind
- Fast action saves lives
- Exercise your plans
- R.A.I.N. Recognize, Avoid, Isolate, Notify
- Your response will make a difference
DISCUSSION