

CAMP SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

Overtime Athletics

A BRAVE NEW
WORLD

Camps continue to be one
of safest environments

BUT

Camps not immune to
violent acts

**EACH CAMP
SHOULD
RESEARCH ITS
INDIVIDUAL
NEEDS AND
LIABILITIES.**

The following is a checklist of some of the most important considerations.

- Assess the susceptibility of your campers to threats of danger
 - kidnapping
 - international terrorism and domestic terrorism
 - Active Shooters
 - Collateral Violence
- Take stock of your facility, land and location:
 - Entries and Exits, Boundaries, Fencing, Lighting, Phone Lines, Cell Phone Reception for Emergency Calls
 - Secure Areas vs Insecure Areas
 - Proximity in and to the Community
 - If your camp is conducted in a public place, assess your neighboring environment including how you will protect your campers and staff from others who are near you, might cross your path, or intentionally invade your space.
 - Design a protocol for handling visitors. Your protocol for parents, whose visits are probably anticipated, will be different from that for sporadic visitors like delivery people.

**FIRST
THINGS
FIRST:**

**THE POWER
OF HELLO**

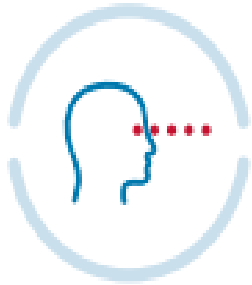
- Keeping Camp Facilities secure while sustaining the welcoming and open environment necessary for community comfort and community interaction requires a holistic approach to security.
- All personnel can contribute greatly to enhancing security by learning how to identify threatening behavioral indicators and taking precautionary actions to safely mitigate potential threats to camp, camp staff, and campers.
- Used effectively, the RIGHT WORDS can be a powerful tool.

THE OHNO
APPROACH:

1. **OBSERVE**
2. **INITIATE A HELLO**
3. **NAVIGTE THE RISK**
4. **OBTAIN HELP**

Simply saying “Hello” can prompt a casual conversation with a new person, providing an opportunity to observe and establish a connection. The OHNO approach—Observe, Initiate a Hello, Navigate the Risk, and Obtain Help—enables staff to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, empowering them to lower risk and obtain help when necessary.





OBSERVE

To improve overall security and detect potential threats, staff should be aware of their surroundings, and consciously observe and assess others. While the considerations below are not necessarily indications of malicious intent, within appropriate contexts, they can help identify suspicious behavior.

Behavior:

- 1. Is the person appearing to study security measures? Are they trying to avoid a camera?
- 2. Is the person lingering in a vehicle for a long time?
- 3. Is the person repeatedly walking in and out of the programming area?

Context:

- 1. Is this person familiar with anyone in the area?
- 2. Is this an appropriate time for a visitor to arrive?
- 3. Is this person asking questions about the program?
- 4. Is this person behaving in a way that is inconsistent with the site?

Attire:

- 1. Is this person wearing unusually inappropriate clothing?
- 2. Is this person wearing military style gear?
- 3. Is this person appearing to conceal something under their clothing?
- 4. Is this person carrying anything that may seem unusual for the surroundings?

*Note: Approaching a person viewed as suspicious has potential risks. In some situations, it may be more advisable to report the activity to those with the authority and training to intervene.



INITIATE A HELLO

As staff welcome visitors, a kind greeting with eye contact can make the difference in how a visitor reacts, even if they are angry or upset. This interaction is the essence of the Power of Hello.

Practice the Power of Hello by doing or saying the following:

Tip: These are important questions, and active listening is key.

Hello, how are you?

Welcome. Is this your first time here?

How can I assist you today?

Are you looking for someone in particular?

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NAVIGATE THE RISK

Observe, consider the context, and mentally assess the situation.

Navigate the risk by asking yourself the following questions:

Is everything normal?

Do they seem to need assistance?



Is there something worrying about this situation?

Is there a potential for danger?

The Power of Hello relies, in part, on an individual's ability to detect behavior that would arouse reasonable suspicion of terrorism or other criminal activity. The following indicators warrant prompt reporting.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INDICATORS

- Expressed or implied threats to commit acts of violence or destruction
- Abusive language that a reasonable person might find threatening
- Statements or behaviors indicative of suicidal or homicidal ideations
- Inappropriate statements about harming others
- Exaggerated or violent gestures (e.g., clenching fists or jaws) that could be interpreted by a reasonable person as threatening or intimidating

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ARMED INTRUDER

- Movement like touching a presumptive firearm secured at hips or waist
- Unusual body movements (positioning oneself or moving in a manner to shield a weapon from view)
- Bulges in clothing indicative of a weapon

If staff encounters any individual displaying these tendencies or someone who appears to be armed, they should obtain help, contact law enforcement



- **NOTE:** Know how to lock the doors quickly and be ready to do so the moment trouble develops.
- The goal is to prevent outside danger from coming inside.



OBTAIN HELP

Be aware, alert, and ready to summon help. Leverage relationships with local law enforcement for non-emergency notifications. If staff feel threatened, they should calmly walk away and lock the doors, note a physical description of the individual; and call 9-1-1.

When reporting to authorities, consider the five “W’s”:



WHO is doing something suspicious?
What do they look like? What are they wearing?



WHAT are they doing that arouses suspicion?



WHEN did they act suspiciously?



WHERE did the suspicious activity take place? Where is the person now?



WHY is the person acting suspiciously? Could they be under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

INCIDENT RESPONSE BEST PRACTICES

Notification Chain Considerations

1. What should the first person who becomes aware of a problem do?
2. Who will help, who will inform and warn?
3. Who will call law enforcement?
4. Who will lock doors, if that is even possible?
5. Who will guide participants to safety? How will they do that?

Incident Response Considerations

1. Crisis situations are uncomfortable to talk about – a communication plan can reduce the chaos of an emergency.
2. Discuss points of entry and exit for evacuation purposes. Review lock-down procedures and shelter in place locations.
3. Shelter in place requires areas with no or few windows and other openings should be closed or locked.
4. Rehearse emergency plans.

How to Respond in an **Active Attacker Situation**



Run

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.



Hide

- Your second option should be to hide.
- Do not huddle together, because it makes an easy target.
- Lock and barricade doors and shut off lights.



Fight

- Fighting is a last resort to be used only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the attacker.
- Find an object to use as a weapon, such as a fire extinguisher or chair.

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE PLANNING

An active shooter incident can be defined as an individual or individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people; these incidents are unpredictable, unfold rapidly, involve firearms and often have no pattern or method in the selection of victims.

- Your plan should consider two major phases of the event:
 - **The Recognition and Notification Phase**
 - **The Reaction and Response Phase**

RECOGNITION AND NOTIFICATION PHASE

In the Recognition and Notification Phase, staff or campers recognize that an emergency in the form of an individual or individuals actively engaged in shooting with the intent to injure or kill is taking place within the facility.

During this chaotic time of first recognition an attempt must be made to identify the individual in terms of what clothing is worn so this crucial information can be relayed to first responders during the 911 call. Additionally, providing a location and direction of travel of the shooter will be important for first responders to formulate a response plan.

ALERTING CAMP

Camp must be alerted. Alerting the camp should include all practical means ranging from radios, public address systems and sirens, group texts and possibly runners.

At the same time, the camp is being alerted a 911 call must be made in order to get first responders on their way to the camp as quickly as possible.

Confirmation that a 911 call has been placed will be an important plan component and a backup plan using a hardline phone as well as cell phone should be considered in your planning phase.

As conditions allow, notify any staff or activity groups participating in activities away from the camp or facility (building) to not return until notified to do so to avoid the possibility they would return to an emergency environment.

REACTION PHASE

In the Reaction Phase, response to an active shooter must be initiated with the safety of campers and staff in mind. The current accepted practice of “Run, Hide, Fight” should be applied. Once the camp notification has gone out, all people within the camp should be in the “Run” mode.

The intent remains to protect as many people as possible in a way that does not increase their exposure to danger during the event.

KEEP THINKING, KEEP REACTING

Campers and staff must be instructed to leave belongings and camp activity equipment behind during the “Run” phase of the plan.

Staff should instruct campers to move quickly and quietly to their evacuation points. If a building or secure area is used, turn off lights, lock any doors, stay away from windows and turn off cell phone ringers.

Once groups have assembled, additional movement of the group may be required.

Your goal is to take appropriate action and stay out of contact with the shooter.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESCUE

When law enforcement arrives, they will be actively searching for the individual and looking to establish safe operating zones and control the camp. Expect them to be in a highly adrenalized state and using specialized equipment and weapons.

Approach them with caution and do not make any sudden movements; instead, raise your arms and show your hands. Follow any commands given when approaching the officers, maintain control over any campers you may be sheltering or shepherding.

Provide any information you might have on the shooter such as direction of travel, current location and what the shooter is wearing; if it is determined that more than one shooter is present, relay that information immediately.

BE PREPARED, BE SAFE

- Assume INACTION will lead to harm to all present (RUN! HIDE! FIGHT!)
- Determine cell phone signal strength and coverage, identify any places within your facility where cell phone coverage is spotty or unreliable.
- Staff must be instructed to report any texts or messages that may be threatening to their personal safety or to the camp.
- Campers and Guest will seek guidance from Camp Staff – Be Prepared
- Directions should be simple and straight to the point – Be Safe