

What UNT police recommend during active shooter situation

Alex Helm | 2015

The gunman who entered Oregon's Umpqua Community College killed nine people and once again projected the gun safety debate on a nation weary from mass shootings. There have been 45 school shootings this year, 17 of them on college campuses.

UNT has its own active shooter response. Police recommend three steps: Get out. Hide out. Take out. These three steps can be found on advisory stickers placed in buildings throughout campus.

UNT police encourage students to first get out of range. They advise exiting the building if possible, finding a safe place to go and then dialing 911. If getting out isn't an option, hide out. Lock any doors and turn the lights off. Finally, take out the shooter by distracting, or throwing items at the shooter, or attacking.

UNT police spokesman John Delong said police will hold active shooter response classes for groups of 20 or more upon request.

"It's a very good resource, to give people a little bit more knowledge," Delong said. "We teach Get out, Hide out, Take out, but we also teach people how to act when law enforcement shows up."

He said that trying to escape is always the first step, but every situation poses its own obstacles.

"If you can get outside, get out," Delong said. "If you can't, hide in closets, places without windows, or places you can barricade."

Some UNT faculty are trained to handle an emergency situation. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommends all key personnel involved in school emergency response be trained in the National Incident Management System.