Active Shooter Response: A Strategy for Survival

What is an “Active Shooter”?
An active shooter is a person who is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.

What should I do?
How you respond to an active shooter is determined by the specific circumstances of the incident and your surroundings. Keep in mind there could be more than one shooter involved. Remain calm and use these guidelines to help plan a strategy for survival:

✓ If an active shooter is outside your building:
  • If safe to do so, exit the building or go to a room that can be locked.
  • Close and lock all the windows and doors, turn off all the lights,
  • get everyone down on the floor and make sure no one is visible from outside the room. Spread out, and do not huddle together for protection.
  • One person should call 911 (from a CSUEB phone) or (510) 885-3333 (from a cell phone),
    o tell the dispatcher what is happening, and inform him/her of your location. Provide as many details as possible and don’t hang up, unless instructed to do so.
    o Be as quiet as possible and listen. Unfamiliar voices may be a shooter attempting to lure victims from their safe space. Turn off your cell phones.
    o Do not respond to any voice commands until you can verify that they are being issued by a police officer.

✓ If an active shooter is in your building:
  o If safe to do so, exit the building or go to a room that can be locked. If you can not safely relocate, use furniture or equipment to barricade entrances. Have one person call 911 (from a CSUEB phone) or (510) 885-3333 (from a cell phone). Then, follow the above instructions.

✓ If an active shooter enters your office or classroom:
  o If possible, escape or hide. Dial 911 or (510) 885-3333;
  o if you can't speak, leave the line open so the dispatcher can listen to what's happening.
  o If there is no opportunity to escape or hide, consider whether to try negotiating with or overtaking the shooter. Consider overtaking the shooter only after all other options have been exhausted. Do not touch anything that was in the vicinity of the shooter.

If you decide to flee… keep these instructions in mind: Have an escape route or plan in mind. Do not carry anything while fleeing; move quickly, in a zig-zag motion. Keep your hands visible, and follow the instructions of responding officers.