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Security expert gives tips on dealing with active shooter situations

Published: Sunday, June 19th 2016, 10:56 pm EDT

Updated: Monday, June 20th 2016, 8:03 am EDT

By Josh Roberson, Reporter CONNECT

WALLACE, NC (WMBF) - The country has seen a rise in mass shootings over the last few years, with the deadliest attack in modern U.S. history happening just one week ago in Orlando.

"Active shooter" has become a common term used in headlines in recent years, with mass shootings like Sandy Hook, the Aurora movie theater, the Charleston church shooting, and most recently the Orlando Massacre.

Patrick Fiel is a retired Army veteran with over 35 years of security experience, working for companies like ADT and as the Executive Director of Security for schools in Washington D.C.

"When you're going into a facility, when you're going into a theater, going into a club or anything like that, know your surroundings. Know your entry points. Know your exit points. Know what you're going to do and how you're going to react," said Fiel.

Fiel says the first step when faced with an active shooter, is to simply run.

"The first thing you do is run. If you can't run to a safe location, you need to hide the best you can. Then the worst and last scenario is if you are encountered by the shooter, you have to fight. You know? You have to survive."

Fiel says the problem with active shooters is that they are usually well prepared, and often have no respect for their own lives or others. That's why shooters will often seek out "soft targets," places with a lot of people but very little security.

"One thing that we recommended for schools, we recommended that police officers park their vehicles out front. So in the case that there are individuals riding around, they know now they're encountering law enforcement. A lot of times they see individuals like that, they don't want to encounter that. Remember they want to take out as many people as possible. So if they encounter law enforcement, it's going to be a one-on-one situation, and law enforcement is going to win."

Fiel says it's not a question of if a shooter will strike again, but when and where. That's why it's important to be proactive to prevent another tragedy.

For more tips on how you can protect yourself, go to <http://www.pvfsecurity.com/>

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