

GOOD SAMARITAN SENIORS COMPLEX POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Manual: FIRE and DISASTER	Subject: CODE SILVER – Active Armed Assailant
Section: C	Effective Date: JUNE 2022
Approved By: Deirdre Britton	Supersede: NEW

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1 – Code Silver – Active Armed Assailant Emergency Response Plan Algorithm
- Appendix 2 – Resident Care Decisions

POLICY

Good Samaritan Seniors' Complex is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

If the event of an active armed assailant situation, the primary aim is to remove all individuals from the situation or area, as quickly as possible, to minimize casualties and to have the police respond and manage the incident. Staff will be instructed to ensure all individuals in their immediate area, including themselves, evacuate the area/building immediately if it is safe to do so. If it is not safe to evacuate the area/building, staff will direct all individuals to protect themselves and others by sheltering in a location that provides as much protection as possible (i.e., behind a locked door, out of sight, behind large objects).

“**Code Silver (Location)**” will be used to inform staff in all areas that an active armed assailant situation is presenting and response is required immediately.

BACKGROUND

Code Silver – Active Armed Assailant is the designated Emergency Response Plan implemented to communicate and activate a standard organizational response to an incident in which a weapon (firearm, edged weapon, explosive device, or instrument that can cause bodily harm or injury) is being used by an individual(s) actively engaged in killing, attempting to kill, or threatening to kill, people within the Home/Lodge.

The main objectives of activating the Code Silver – Active Armed Assailant Emergency Response Plan are:

- To minimize risk and preserve the safety of Residents, staff, physicians, visitors, volunteers, and any contractors that may be on-site at the time of the incident; and
- To trigger an immediate response from police services.

GOOD SAMARITAN SENIORS COMPLEX POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Manual: FIRE and DISASTER	Subject: CODE SILVER – Active Armed Assailant
Section: C	Effective Date: JUNE 2022
Approved By: Deirdre Britton	Supersede: NEW

The Code Silver – Active Armed Assailant code can be initiated by any member of staff who witnesses or recognizes an active threat that requires an immediate police service notification and response by activating the actions outlined in this policy.

Law enforcement personnel are the primary responders and will assume control in any Code Silver response. Do not interfere with the police officers by delaying or impeding their movements; the police are there to stop the threat as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area the assailant was last seen or heard. The first officers at the scene will not stop to assist injured individuals.

Police officers will be responding with the intent to use a required level of force to diffuse the situation. Ensure you do not present yourself as a threat to them:

- Drop any items in your hands (e.g., bags, jackets, etc.)
- Immediately raise hands and keep them visible at all times
- Remain calm and follow the officers' instructions; avoid screaming and/or yelling
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating: proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the area

All individuals must remain in a safe location, as instructed by police until the situation is under control and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave the safe location until police have instructed you to do so.

PROCEDURES

ADMINISTRATOR or DESIGNATE / RN / RPN

1. Assess the situation and take charge. Call 911 and notify the police of the situation.
2. Announce over the paging system "Code Silver" three times and announce location if known.
3. Refer to Appendix 1, Code Silver – Active Assailant Emergency Response Algorithm and Appendix 2, Resident Care Decisions for further direction, as necessary.
4. Evacuate the area of Residents, staff and others if safe to do so.
5. Do not allow anyone to enter the building.
6. Provide police with access codes, cards and master keys as required to allow them to enter any area within the building.
7. Initiate a lockdown of the building as instructed by the police.
8. Delegate an employee to meet the police at the main entrance or outside the building

**GOOD SAMARITAN SENIORS COMPLEX
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Manual: FIRE and DISASTER	Subject: CODE SILVER – Active Armed Assailant
Section: C	Effective Date: JUNE 2022
Approved By: Deirdre Britton	Supersede: NEW

- if the assailant is in the main lobby area and provide as much information as you can to assist the police. Inform the police of any weapons the assailant is in possession of, if known. Provide optional access to the scene (e.g. stairways/elevators).
9. As soon as police arrive, they will assume control of the situation.
 10. Have the following information available for police and senior management:
 - a. Identification and number of hostage(s) and/or injured persons/victims (including locations in the building, if known);
 - b. Identification and number of assailant(s) including location in the building, if known;
 - c. Type and number of weapons, if any, in possession of the assailant(s);
 - d. Threats and demands by the assailant(s);
 - e. Precise location and floor plan of the area controlled by the assailants(s), if appropriate;
 - f. Location of people who could not be evacuated and may or may not be injured;
 - g. Location and number of telephones in the available area.
 11. Account for all Residents and staff, visitors and volunteers.
 12. Notify the Administrator (if the IMS Leader is not the Administrator).
 13. Contact necessary authorities and governing agencies.
 14. Establish the IMS Team in the Emergency Operations Centre.
 15. Appoint a Public Information Officer who will provide appropriate information to families and other stakeholders and communicate with the media.

ALL STAFF

1. Remain calm and evacuate if safe to do so.
2. Do not confront any individual with a weapon.
3. Call 911 and notify the police of the situation.
4. Announce over the paging system “Code Silver” three times and announce location if known.
5. If possible, assist others to leave the area and redirect those trying to enter.
6. Hide, if unable to evacuate. Use rooms with doors that lock and barricade the door with heavy furniture. Silence your cell phone and turn off any sources of noise (radios, televisions, etc.). Hide behind large objects. Remain quiet and low to the ground.
7. Survive! Fight only as a last resort. Only if your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the assailant by:
 - a. Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her,
 - b. throwing items at the assailant(s) and;

GOOD SAMARITAN SENIORS COMPLEX POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Manual: FIRE and DISASTER	Subject: CODE SILVER – Active Armed Assailant
Section: C	Effective Date: JUNE 2022
Approved By: Deirdre Britton	Supersede: NEW

c. improvising weapons.

Note: If others are available, work together to distract and attack the assailant(s) as fiercely as possible.

8. Call the police and advise them of your location and details of your situation only when safe to do so. Give the police as much information as possible, including; current location of the assailant(s) or direction headed, if known; type of weapons; description of the assailant(s); any comments or demands made by the assailant(s); information on victims/hostages; and any other information that you feel may be relevant.
9. Remain on the line and follow the instructions of the operator (stay as quiet as possible)

FOLLOWING THE ACTIVE ARMED ASSAILANT SITUATION

1. Announce “Code Silver, All Clear” overhead three times only after being notified by police that it is safe to do so.
2. Provide support to Residents, staff and volunteers impacted by the situation. Arrange for medical aid and/or counseling services as needed and requested.
3. Account for Residents, staff, volunteers and visitors
4. Ensure Residents, staff, volunteers or visitors involved speak with the police following the incident.
5. Conduct a short initial debriefing of staff and volunteers involved in the incident. The Administrator will schedule a full debrief.
6. Ensure all staff involved completes a written report of the incident details and submits it to the Administrator before leaving.

Definitions:

ACTIVE ARMED ASSAILANT: Refers to an individual(s) actively engaged in killing, attempting to kill, or threatening to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active armed assailants use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

References:

Extendicare: Emergency Preparedness and Response Manual, accessed June 13, 2022
<http://scoc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-01-25-emergency-preparedness-and-response-manual-2021.pdf>