

PHOENIX BUSINESS BLOG

Maricopa Community Colleges sends security advisory to students in wake of Oregon shooting

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Students and teachers should be ready to fight for the lives and attack mass shooters if necessary, according to a security alert by one of the largest community college systems in the U.S.

The advisory was sent to students at the Maricopa Community Colleges after Thursday's killings at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, gives tips on how to escape and hide from "active shooters."

The community college district has thousands of students, many of whom are taking classes part time while they work, and students cover a variety of ages. Its Rio Salado College campus also is home to a business incubator.

The alert also tells students and others they may need to fight and fight for their lives.

MCC Police Chief Mikel Longman writes:

If you have not been able to escape or the shooter discovers your hiding place you must be prepared to -

- *Fight: You must be prepared to fight as a last resort when your life is in imminent danger*
- *Do whatever you have to do to incapacitate the shooter*
- *Do not be tentative, commit to action, your life may depend on it*
- *Improvise weapons and do what you have to do to survive*
- *The element of surprise is your ally*

The alert also gives instructions on being approached by police after such an incident, reminding students that police won't always know who the shooter is.

The Maricopa system includes 10 community colleges across the Phoenix metro area including locations in Scottsdale, Glendale, Paradise Valley and Phoenix. Between 240,000 and 265,000 take credit and non-credit classes at schools including Phoenix College, GateWay Community College and Mesa Community College.

Community colleges, schools and university campuses have been the targets of mass shooters. The latest was Thursday's attack in Oregon. Nine people were killed and others seriously injured.

Mike Sunnucks writes about residential and commercial real estate, government, law, sports business and workplace issues.

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