

# UNRESPONSIVE CRISIS:

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# 1 SHOOTING, ON AVERAGE, HAS OCCURRED EVERY OTHER SCHOOL DAY SINCE 2014



“WE ARE AN OPEN CAMPUS, ANYONE COULD COME ON CAMPUS AS THEY PLEASE AND WE WOULDN'T BE PREPARED IF A SHOOTING OCCURRED,” JONES SAID.

“There’s a man with a gun in the library,” said Samantha Sillick a Florida State University student, in a text to her father, the night three students were shot at FSU. According to CNN, the school sent out a text to students warning them to take refuge and stay away from windows.

**SENIOR SOCIOLOGY STUDENT AT FSU, ARIELLE BURTON SAID, “AFTER THE CAMPUS SHOOTING, WE HAVE HAD A LOT MORE EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS AND HOW TO HANDLE A SIMILAR SITUATION IF IT WAS TO OCCUR AGAIN.”**

With a campus of over 40,000 students, the student body, FSU police department and the Tallahassee police department weren’t prepared for a crisis such as an active shooter. Why aren’t the majority of college and universities campuses in the nation prepared for something that becomes more of an issue each day?

Recently, North Carolina Central University experienced a similar situation, “What do we do now?” After a campus fight, a sophomore student was shot and severely injured. It was clear the university was not prepared for an active shooter situation; a 40-character tweet was the difference between danger and a close call for some students in the line of fire.

NCCU sent out an official tweet to warn students of the campus shooting and locked down the campus until further notice, but was social media the most effective way to reach out to thousands of students? Most students have developed a sense of detachment from the possibility

of a university shooting, because it has not specifically happened to them, or at their university. This numbness may be attributed to the distant feeling social media provides. Most students think that a campus shooting would never happen at their university, but that’s not the case for Tajae Jones, a freshman student at Florida A&M University.

“We are an open campus, anyone could come on campus as they please and we wouldn’t be prepared if a shooting occurred,” Jones said. Students are unaware how to protect themselves if a shooting was to arise on campus. Universities, as a whole, needs to take action and make a safety plan, which will be acknowledged throughout the campus by not only faculty, but students as well. Students are concerned about passing their next class, and having the greatest college experience, however, we seldom think about the safety of those around us and ourselves.

Freshman business administration student at FAMU, Kelis Tulloch believes that the student body is not prepared for a campus shooting and could be better prepared as a university. “I am unsure what to do, myself, if an incident was to occur, besides hide,” Tulloch said.

No one can fully be prepared for a campus shooting but if students are made aware and are prepared with the knowledge needed to not only protect themselves, but

others around them, the outcome of the situation could drastically change.

A good way to prepare students and staff in case of an emergency is to start off with campus and community outreach. Universities should launch different campaigns to spread campus shootings statistics. According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1 campus shooting, on average, has occurred every other school day since 2014.

The University of Michigan has an active shooter safety instructional manual to raise awareness to students. FAMU could implement this method as well as have university wide classes that promote active shooter awareness.

The AP review found that most schools have implemented new technology throughout college campuses that can remotely take over computers tied to campus servers. These different methods of safety can protect campuses if concealed weapons are allowed on campus.

**BRANDON JOHNSON, A SOPHOMORE POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT AT FAMU, DOESN'T SUPPORT HAVING GUNS ON CAMPUS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, BUT RATHER HIRE MORE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED OFFICERS THROUGHOUT CAMPUS.**

“Having guns isn’t the safest alternative,” Johnson said. He isn’t alone, according to Fox News Insider, all 12 Florida state university presidents and three FSU police chiefs are all opposed to having concealed weapons on campus. While remembering our lost students, we should raise awareness on campus safety to prevent another student from receiving that horrific text.

