

# Security and Preparedness

Report and Recommendations to the Khalsa Council

Submitted by Singh Sahib Jot Singh Khalsa with input from SAT

Security Advisory Team and Sant Sipahi Advisory Team.

September 2015

**Siri Sikhdar Sahiba, Bhai Sahiba, Chairwoman and most esteemed members of the Khalsa Council:**

**Wahe Guru Ji Ka Khalsa ~ Wahe Guru Ji Ki Fateh**

Below find a brief mention of recent tragic events you may be familiar with and other relevant commentary. These instances continue to demonstrate the confusion and mental and emotional instability of people worldwide.

**Mid 2015**

- **Mid June -- 9 people were shot dead** at a black church in Charleston, S.C. by a white supremacist young man.
- **Late July -- 4 US Marines were shot dead** in Tennessee by a young man from Kuwait, referred to as radicalized, who was living in the USA.
- **Late July -- 3 dead / 9 injured** in a Louisiana shooting where people were inside a movie theater when a gunman opened fire.
- **Late August -- a suspected Islamist male opened fire** on a train heading to Paris, France and was subdued by 4 men with several injured. He was charged with attempted murder.
- **Late August -- two television people shot dead** in Virginia by a disgruntled former employee of the same television station.
- **Early September -- A Sikh father** was brutally attacked and beaten in Chicago while in his car - as racial slurs were uttered by the attacker. Police have now charged this as a hate crime.

**What we are hearing in the world's news** over the last few months is that there seems to be an unfortunate trend. Likely in response to ISIS/ISSL, attacks on citizens by those sympathetic to

their causes are happening in the USA and Europe. Most of these attacks have targeted civilians and some military by angry people, frustrated with their realities and there may be all kinds of other reasons. **Potential danger to us** may arise because many don't know who we are and we look similar to leaders of several of the

radical, terrorist groups. This could cause some to believe we are affiliated with them. **So -- be cautious, aware and alert - everywhere you go.**

### Instructional videos that are active shooter simulations

- **We will be watching 2 videos** that last less than 11 minutes, which are simulations of active shooter incidents. These are more instructional than the one we viewed in April. Commentary from experts is listed below for your reference, review and possibly for your community.
- Your familiarity with these procedures will have you better prepared to take action and able to guide others in how to proceed in this kind of potentially life-threatening situation

<http://youtu.be/5VcSweJU2D0>

**RUN**  
When an active shooter is in your vicinity:

- > If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate.
- > Evacuate whether others agree to or not.
- > Leave your belongings behind.
- > Help others escape if possible.
- > Prevent others from entering the area.
- > Call 911 when you are safe.

**HIDE**  
If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide.

- > Lock and/or blockade the door.
- > Silence your cell phone.
- > Hide behind large objects.
- > Remain very quiet.

**HIDE**  
If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide.

Your hiding place should:

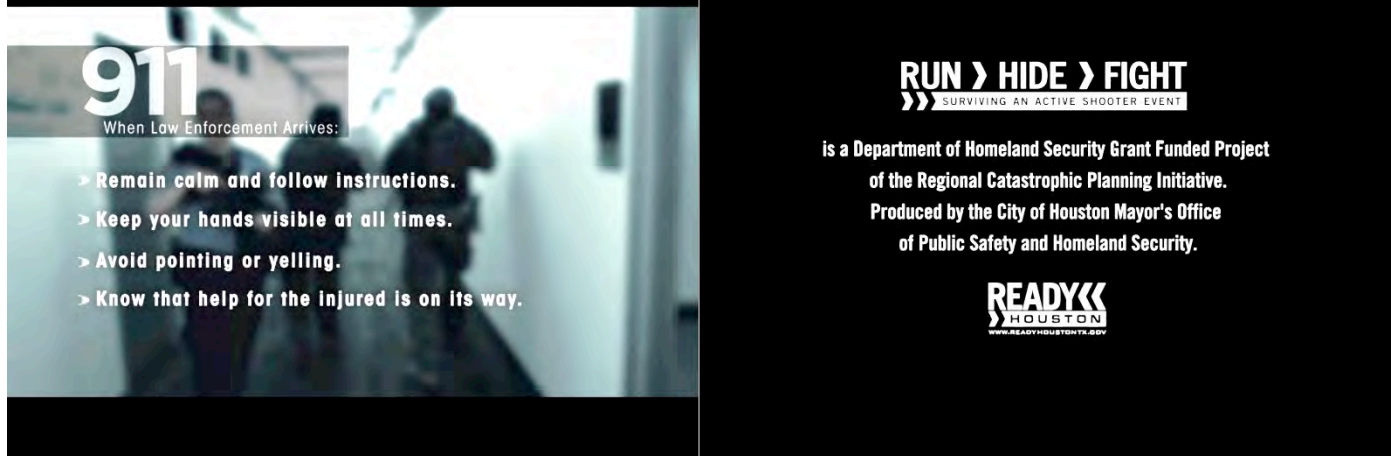
- > Be out of the shooter's view.
- > Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
- > Not trap or restrict your options for movement.

**FIGHT**  
As a last resort, and only if your life is in danger:

- > Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- > Act with physical aggression.
- > Improvise weapons.
- > Commit to your actions.

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VIDEO LINK 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1wQeKoBmHE&feature=youtu.be>

**Security Procedures at our Events**

- We are pleased to share that an upgraded security presence presided at Summer Solstice here in NM several months ago. Our inspired and inspiring managers and Security Advisory Team (SAT) members worked closely on new training procedures with the Solstice security team to implement the most secure and safe environment ever. SAT is working diligently to improve things further, hoping next Solstice to have picture id's for all participants. We are also working to inspire greater awareness around the need for personal security, awareness and preparedness in our *small city* at Ram Das Puri. During three days of White Tantric Yoga we had 3 armed, uniformed sheriffs close to or at the Tantric shelter, guaranteeing that any dangerous situation that might arise around the tantric shelter, could be dealt with expeditiously.
- SAT met with the managers of the security team from the European Yoga Festival prior to that event via Skype. Suggestions were shared from the best practices and procedures being established at Solstices and were appreciated and implemented in France as much as possible. Laws around firearms are quite different in Europe and the event is held on private property. The owner will not allow firearms and so we are ill prepared there to handle any kind of

an armed attack from those who might attend the event or any who might penetrate the perimeter of the property and have nefarious intentions. Once the

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event is held on our own land, this capacity to have someone armed should be able to shift. In the meantime, if you are so moved, keep your prayers strong for safety at this 'largest event' 3HO Foundation sponsors annually.

**Suggested Actions for You and all Sangat Members** – Some of which were part of the April Khalsa Council Security and Preparedness report:

- **Are you willing** to take a life if necessary to save your own and/or other's lives? If yes and there is little or no doubt, consider attending some firearms training that equips you for the physical and mental aspects of using a firearm for self-protection. Then consider a gun purchase and additional skills training, shooting at a range or wherever it might be legal to do that. **Your readiness could be essential these days.**
- **FYI - Gurutej Singh**, founder of Akal Security and personal bodyguard to Siri Singh Sahib ji with some regularity over years, shared with me 9 months ago that our beloved teacher at times, slept with a gun under his pillow.
- **We never know where an attack will come from!** Being mindful of securing your space when you are facilitating a gathering, class or celebration of any type, will more likely assure a joyous and peace filled environment for you and all participants.
- **Engage in your yogic and meditation practices - striving to be doing 2.5 hours (certainly urged by our beloved teacher).** This will insure your intuitive, poised and non-reactive presence will meet and serve all situations.
- **Live Streaming Technology is currently being used in Millis, MA USA and Herndon, VA USA (with Espanola hoping to implement this soon).** We are using live streaming technology to have students and associates participate in group sadhana, enhancing their radiance, presence and clarity of mind. We suggest utilizing this widely available technology medium to serve, uplift and grow your local community, and for that matter any within or close to your time zone where it is difficult for them to be present

personally.

- **Stay as physically fit as you can**, as your agility and strength will

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enhance your capacity to effectively physically confront someone, if necessary. Engage in some kind of physical conditioning, self-defense preparedness and/or martial arts classes. This affords the confidence to intervene and thwart an attack on oneself or others. (Key element - find a teacher/school where the teacher(s) exhibit a lot of respect for the students).

- **An 'Active shooter' is best confronted** directly through the element of surprise, violence of action and overwhelming force. This takes courage and training. If you are further interested in how to neutralize an active shooter, another video is here: <http://youtu.be/odO6VPuV9GY>. This offers very specific instructions and recommendations. It is produced by Mr. Alon Stivi, an Israeli-American, who is on the leading edge of this kind of preparedness, also training US military and law enforcement.

### **SAT – Security Advisory Team**

**SAT** meets at least once and oftentimes twice per month. It is composed of a dedicated group of men and women, striving to insure that our 3HO and Sikh Dharma communities and events are provided the highest level of safety and security for all members and participants. If you or someone you know are interested in serving with us, please email us at the address below.

Humbly submitted by SS Jot Singh Khalsa

In collaboration with SAT (Security Advisory Team) and the Sant Sipahi Advisory Team

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