



EDGED WEAPON ATTACKS

TRAINING MANUAL



Allied Universal
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The Allied Universal Edged Weapon Attacks Training Manual represents core training regarding Edged Weapon Attacks for each Security Professional, but by itself does not constitute complete and comprehensive training.

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EDGED WEAPON ATTACKS

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Review questions follow each unit.



Unit 1 – ABOUT EDGED WEAPON ATTACKS

GOAL: By the end of this unit, you'll have an introduction to edged weapon attacks.

TOPICS:

1. Introduction.
2. What Do We Mean by Edged Weapons?
3. State Laws and Property Code Of Conduct.
4. An Edged Weapon Attack Is Considered Deadly Force.

1 – INTRODUCTION

The emphasis of this training course is your personal safety as well as those nearby during an edged weapon attack.

Malls are susceptible to edged weapon attacks because such events are a threat in all places where people gather. Edged weapon attacks have occurred at shopping centers, schools, hotels, as well as in streets, parking lots, and other venues.

Although rare occurrences, edged weapon attacks are a very serious threat. As a Security Professional, you must immediately take steps to protect yourself and others in the event of an edged weapon attack.

This training course is not meant as defensive tactics to engage an edged weapon attacker. This course presents basic, key response practices to avoid harm during an edged weapon attack.

2 – WHAT DO WE MEAN BY EDGED WEAPONS?

Edged weapons can be described as any tool that by design has a bladed edge or sharpened point and is used for cutting, hacking, or slashing objects. Some common edged weapons include:

- Knife (folding pocket knives or fixed blade)
- Cutlery knives
- Machete
- Ax
- Hatchet
- Sword
- Box cutter
- Scissors
- Multi-purpose tool (any tool with sharp edged features in addition to other features)

For purposes of this training course, *edged weapons* refers to *hand-held* edged weapons and not projectile edged weapons such as arrows, nails from a nail gun, etc.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand what an edged weapon is.
2. Know your state and local laws regarding edged weapons.
3. Understand that an edged weapon attack is likely to be considered deadly force.

When an edged weapon assailant has one of these tools, they can quickly use them as a weapon to seriously injure or kill people near them.

Often these tools may be easily concealed and go unnoticed until the attack happens.

In most situations where the edged weapon is used by an assailant, they must be in close proximity (usually within arm's reach) to harm you.

3 – STATE LAWS AND PROPERTY CODE OF CONDUCT

Often people who carry edged weapons may be committing a crime, violating a state law, as well as violating the property's code of conduct.

State laws vary regarding edged weapons. All states have criminal laws defining when an edged weapon can be carried concealed or if an edged weapon can be carried openly (commonly referred to as open carry). These criminal laws may also restrict the length of the edged weapon a person can carry. For instance, a state may forbid an individual from conceal carry of edged weapons over a certain length but open carry of that same edged weapon is legal.

Violation of these laws would be a crime and the violator is subject to arrest by law enforcement authorities. Criminal offenses regulating edged weapons vary across states/jurisdictions, so knowing these laws in your state/jurisdiction is important and recommended.

In addition, the Code of Conduct is meant to protect people, property, and the business value of the property. As such, Codes of Conduct frequently feature statements about unsafe acts, disruptive behavior, unlawful actions, and activities that undermine business being successfully transacted.

4 – AN EDGED WEAPON ATTACK IS CONSIDERED DEADLY FORCE

When a person uses an edged weapon in an aggressive or threatening manner, they are committing a crime. These types of incidents are life-threatening and very dangerous.

An edged weapon attack will very likely constitute unlawful deadly force.

Deadly force is defined as "force likely to cause death or serious bodily harm." Injuries from edged weapon often are either fatal or cause serious bodily harm.

Realize then that an edged weapon attack may be a deadly force attack upon you or others. You do not carry defensive tools sufficient to protect yourself from such a deadly force edged weapon attack. For that reason, the response practices in this training course emphasize getting away from the attacker rather than engaging the attacker.

If you are not able to move away from a deadly force edged weapon attacker, you may find yourself justified to use any means necessary to protect your life or the life of others.

ABOUT EDGED WEAPON ATTACKS – REVIEW QUESTIONS

Can you correctly answer the following questions? Check your answers by looking back at the information in this unit.

1. What is an edged weapon for purposes of this training course?
2. Why are malls susceptible to edged weapon attacks?
3. When a person uses an edged weapon in an aggressing or threatening manner, what type of law was broken?
4. An edged weapon attack is likely to be considered what kind of force?

Unit 2 – PROTECTIVE RESPONSE PRINCIPLES

GOAL: By the end of this unit, you will understand the basics of security related incident response to an edged weapon attack.

TOPICS:

1. Overarching Response Principles.
2. Key Incident Response Practices.
3. The 21 Foot Rule.
4. Protective Action Tips.
5. Assisting Law Enforcement When They Arrive.

1 – OVERARCHING RESPONSE PRINCIPLES

The overarching principle of an edged weapon attack is to **create as much distance as possible from the assailant**. Remember, an edged weapon attack depends upon close proximity to cause harm.

Follow these basic guidelines:

1. **Move Away Rapidly** – Quickly create as much distance as possible between you and the attacker.
2. **Direct Others to Move Away Rapidly** – Alert others to the threat and direct them in clear, urgent language to move away quickly.
3. **Do not Engage the Attacker** – Unless you cannot move away and are defending your life, do not move closer to the attacker and do not engage the attacker.

2 – KEY INCIDENT RESPONSE PRACTICES

The presence of an edged weapon on property requires immediate action by security. Security is unarmed and not equipped to interact. The best option is to call 9-1-1 or local law enforcement and allow them to handle the situation.

Here are the Four Key Principles of incident response:

1. **Call Police** – Call police immediately. (If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.)
2. **Observe and Don't Approach** – Observe the person from a safe distance to assess the level of threat to people nearby. Do not approach or confront the person; always keep distance between you and them. If possible, it is best to let the police interact with the person carrying an edged weapon.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Know the overarching response principles to an edged weapon attack.
2. Know the four key practices of incident response.
3. Be familiar with the 21 foot rule and how to effectively maintain a safe distance.
4. Know the potential dangers of an edged weapon assailant.
5. Know tips to protect yourself and others.

3. **Coordinate with Other Security Professionals** – Coordinate with CCTV video patrol and fellow Security Professionals to keep constant uninterrupted observation of the person with the edged weapon to provide continual updates to local law enforcement.
4. **Alert Others and Try to Keep Them Away** – Do your best to help others move away from the area of threat.

When communicating to other Security Professionals and law enforcement, provide as much detail about the assailant as possible (e.g., address of incident, last known location of the assailant, a detailed description of the assailant, what weapons were involved, number of injured people, and your location).

3 – THE 21 FOOT RULE

The key to protecting yourself from edged weapon attack is to create distance between you and the attacker. It is easy, however, to underestimate how much protective distance is needed.

Keep in mind the 21 foot rule (source: Caliber Press – Street Survival). The 21 foot rule warns that at a distance of even 21 feet away from an attacker, you are still immediately susceptible to attack and that you might not be able to react in time to avoid an attack from this distance.

Other defense experts have stated that you are immediately susceptible to attack at even greater distances.

This means that if a person with an edged weapon suddenly comes at you to attack, you would likely not have time to adequately react by moving away or otherwise defending yourself if the attacker is around 21 feet away or closer. This is important to know given that almost all security interactions occur much closer than 21 feet away.

This information should guide your efforts to create distance between you and a potential or actual edged weapon attacker.

4 – PROTECTIVE ACTION TIPS

If you or others are in close proximity to the attacker, you are in danger. The following are tips on how to perform actions to protect you and others.

Tips for Moving Away from an Attacker

When moving away from the attacker, consider the following:

- **Move away rapidly and decisively** – Consider running from the attacker, if necessary to create distance. Note: Running backwards may not be the best option as there is a chance you can trip and fall, in addition you are not as fast or as coordinated when moving backwards.
- **Move laterally (right or left)** – In some instances moving to the left or right away from the attacker rather than backwards in his or her line of attack can help you evade the attack.
- **Keep objects (chairs and tables) between you and the attacker** – Any object or barrier that blocks the attacker from reaching you may help. Move behind such objects as you move away from the attacker or attempt to evade attack.

- **Use any means to defend yourself** – If you cannot move away or evade the attacker then, similar to active shooter practices, fight the attacker by any means necessary to defend yourself. This may include using any object as a weapon of opportunity to strike or fend off the attacker. Protecting your life by fighting the attacker should always be the last resort after moving away and evading have failed.

Remember that OC pepper spray, batons, and Tasers are less than lethal force defensive tools and an edged weapon attacker is using deadly force.

Tips for Alerting Others during an Edged Weapon Incident

Your overarching objective during an edged weapon attack should be **to keep yourself safe**. Help others move away but do not jeopardize your own safety in doing so.

The key practice for protecting others during an edged weapon incident or attack is to alert them and direct them to move away. If people in the immediate area move rapidly away, this reduces the number of targets of attack available to the attacker.

If you are aware of an edged weapon incident that has not become an attack (e.g., someone has been spotted in possession of an edged weapon), then do your best to divert others from the area while you await a police response.

In the event of an edged weapon attack in progress, act immediately and rapidly to alert others in clear, loud and urgent language to move away while you, too, move away from the attack.

If possible, you may do the following depending upon immediate circumstances, such as the proximity of the edged weapon assailant, the proximity of an entrance way or other means of evacuation.

- While rapidly moving away from where you perceive the edged weapon assailant to be, shout simple and clear information to others in the area: **“KNIFE ATTACK, MOVE AWAY! RUN!”**
- You may instruct, **“RUN! GET OUT! GET AWAY!”**

5 – ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT WHEN THEY ARRIVE

When law enforcement arrives on scene, their purpose is to stop the edged weapon attacker as soon as possible. Police officers will proceed directly to the area where the attack is occurring.

Understand that not all police officers may be wearing an easily recognizable uniform; some may be plain-clothes officers (referred to as investigators).

Here are some tips on how to react when law enforcement arrives on scene:

- Remain calm, and follow law enforcement instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands (e.g., bags, jackets).
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid making quick movements toward law enforcement, such as holding on to them for safety.

- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
- Do not approach the building until police have secured it and you are allowed by them to do so.
- Remember, any person in or near the building may be considered a suspect by police.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating; proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises.

As a Security Professional, you may have an impulse to assist police. However, your role during and in the immediate aftermath of an edged weapon attack will be limited.

Do not impede the emergency response of police or emergency medical professionals. Police, especially, will be wholly focused upon securing the scene. Do not approach police while they are performing emergency response actions.

Obey directions from police to move to any areas designated for members of the public to keep them safe.

Make contact with security supervisors on or near the property, or other security leaders, as soon as possible. They may be attempting to locate all Security Professionals and ascertain everyone's condition.

Be prepared to assist law enforcement with any requests they make of you, such as traffic control duties, command post set up, logging lost and found, etc.

PROTECTIVE RESPONSE PRINCIPLES – REVIEW QUESTIONS

Can you correctly answer the following questions? Check your answers by looking back at the information in this unit.

1. What are the overarching principles of an edged weapon attack?
2. What are the four key incident response practices?
3. What is meant by the 21 foot rule?
4. What should you do if you encounter an attacker and cannot escape?
5. How can you help limit the number of potential victims during an edged weapon attack?
6. What are important practices for working with law enforcement when they arrive?

