

An American flag is partially visible on the left side of the image, showing the stars and stripes. The background is a dark, textured surface.

CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENTS



Disaster Response

**An overview of how
people behave in high stress events**

Columbine 911 Call



Three Stages of Disaster Response

- **Denial**
- **Deliberation**
- **Decisive Moment**



Denial Phase



Social Patterns

**Act or do
nothing**



Deliberation Phase



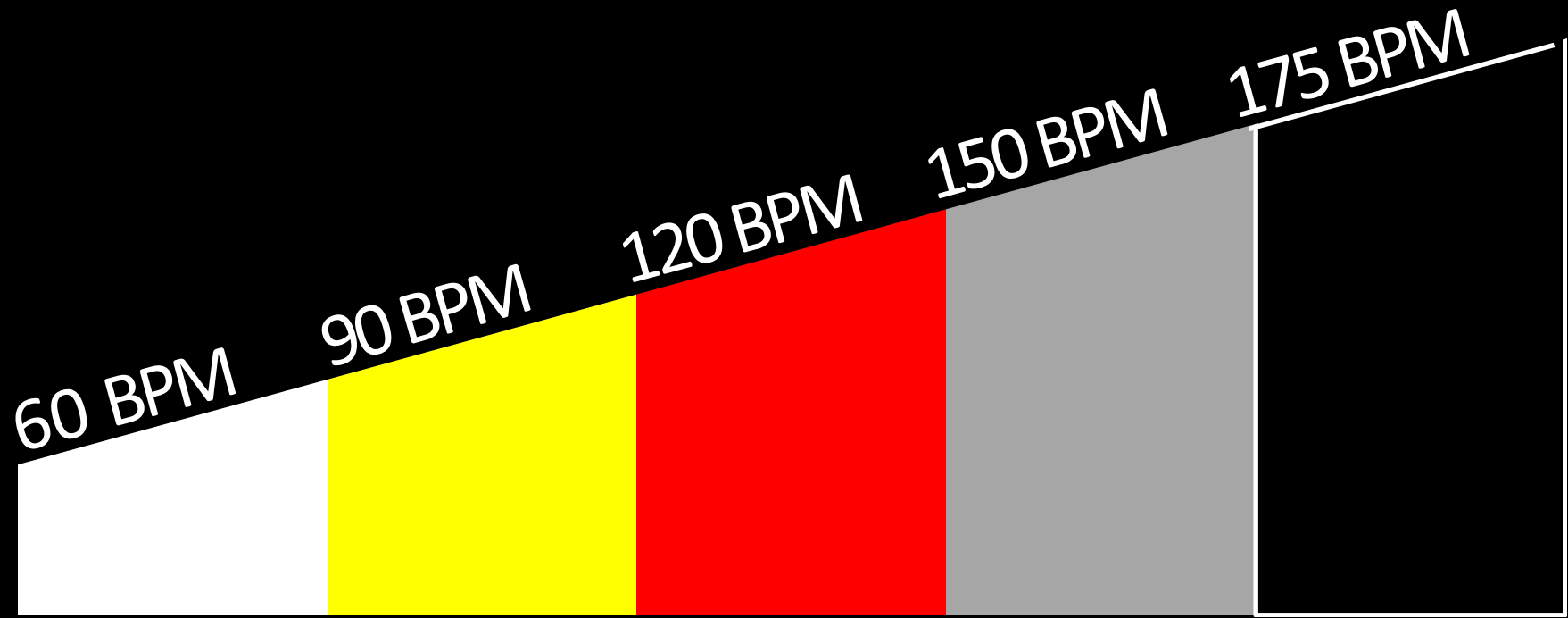
Deliberation

- **Calm yourself**
- **Combat breathing**
- **Shift your emotion**
- **Stay fit**

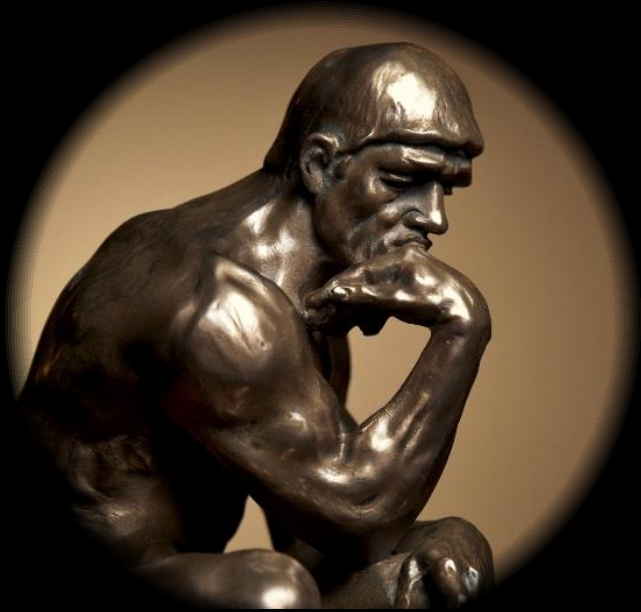


Stress Response

Heart Rate



Human Brain



- **Reflective**
- **Thinking Brain**
- **Flexible**
- **Rational**
- **Slow**

Lizard Brain

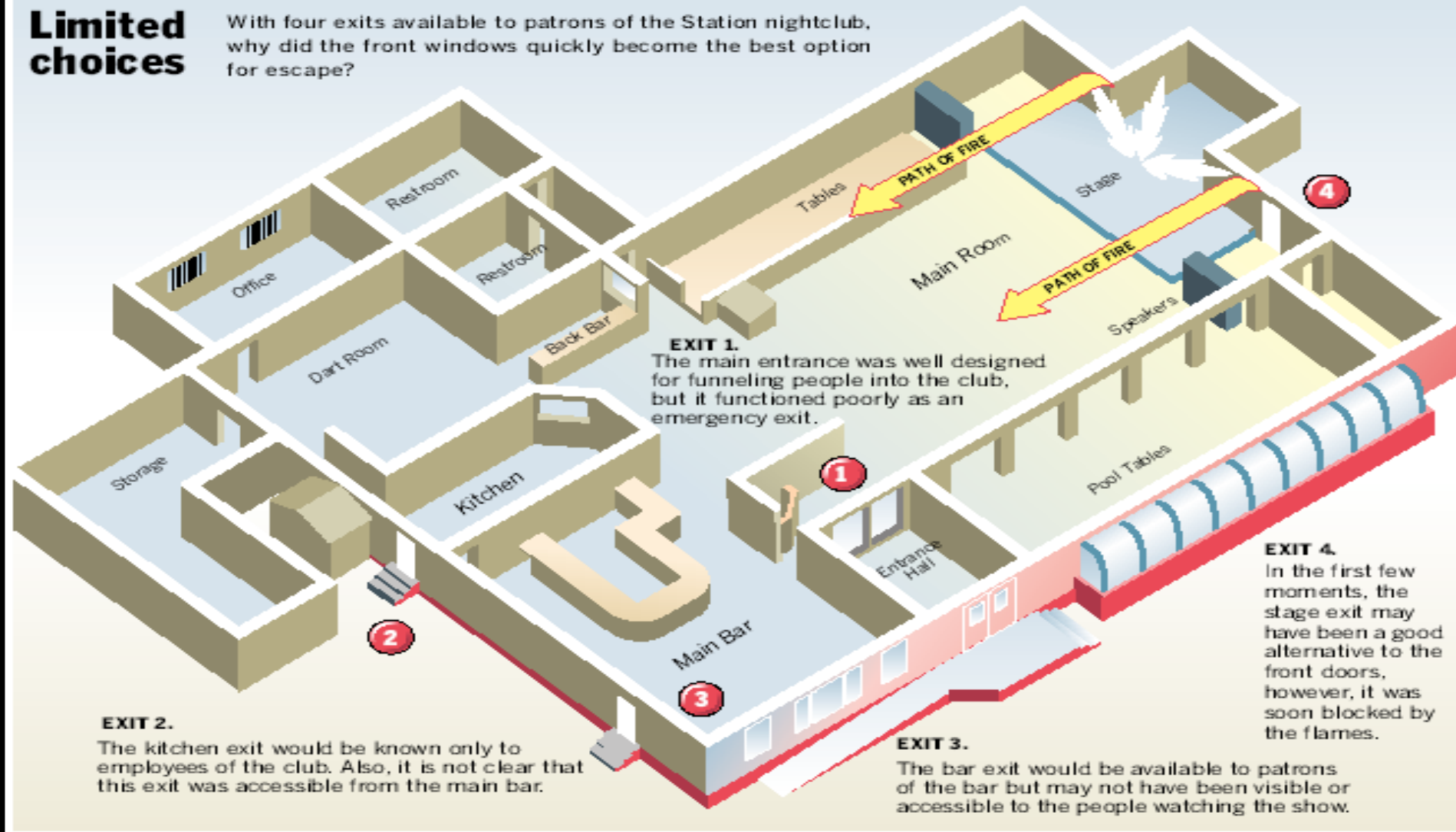


Fight
Flight
Freeze

Reaction to emergency

Limited choices

With four exits available to patrons of the Station nightclub, why did the front windows quickly become the best option for escape?



Station Nightclub Fire



Deliberation

- **Script**
- **Practice**
- **Share**
- **Swift decisions**



Decisive Moment



Active Shooter Events

Definitions

Active Shooter Event

or

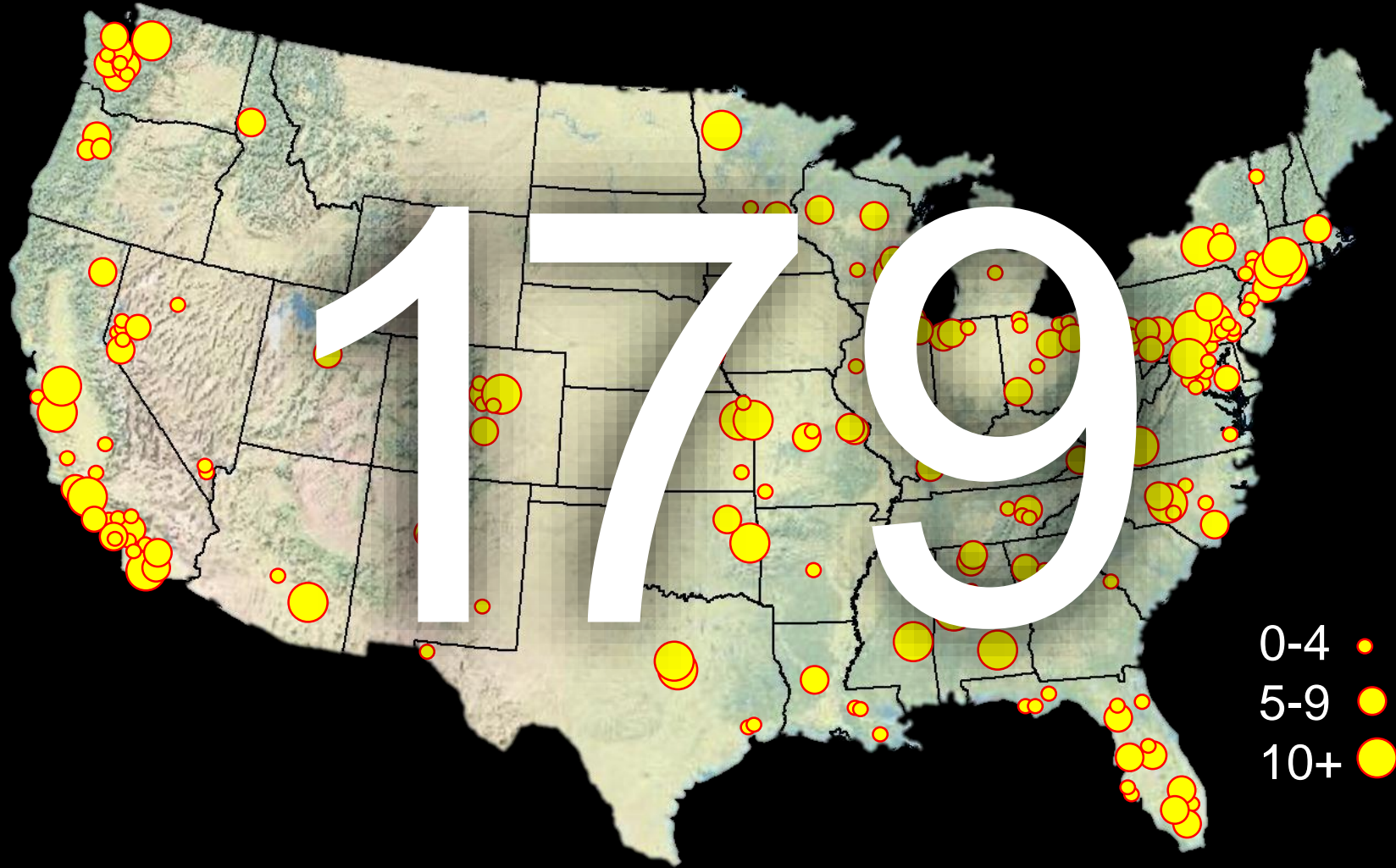
Attempted Mass Murder

The Shooter

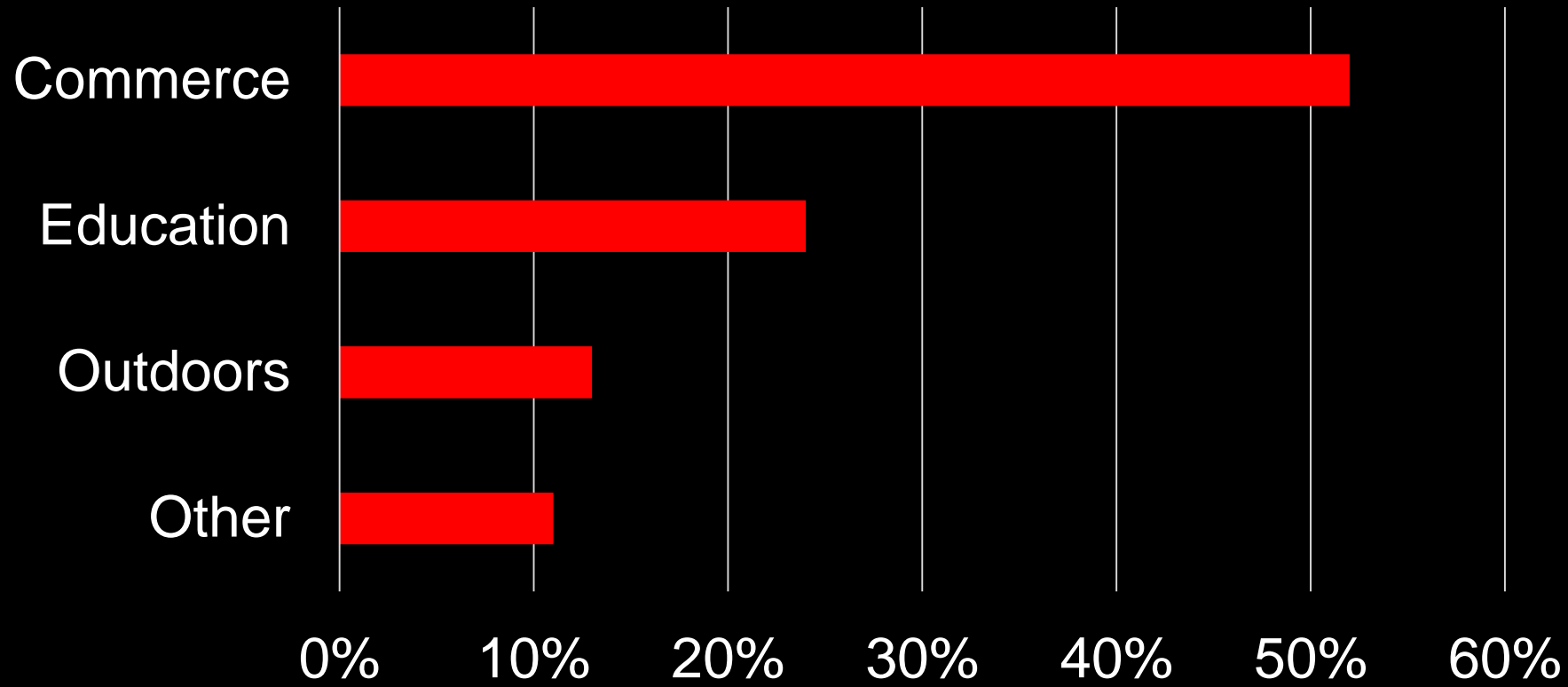
- **No “Profile”**
- **Avenger Mindset**
- **Not a talker**



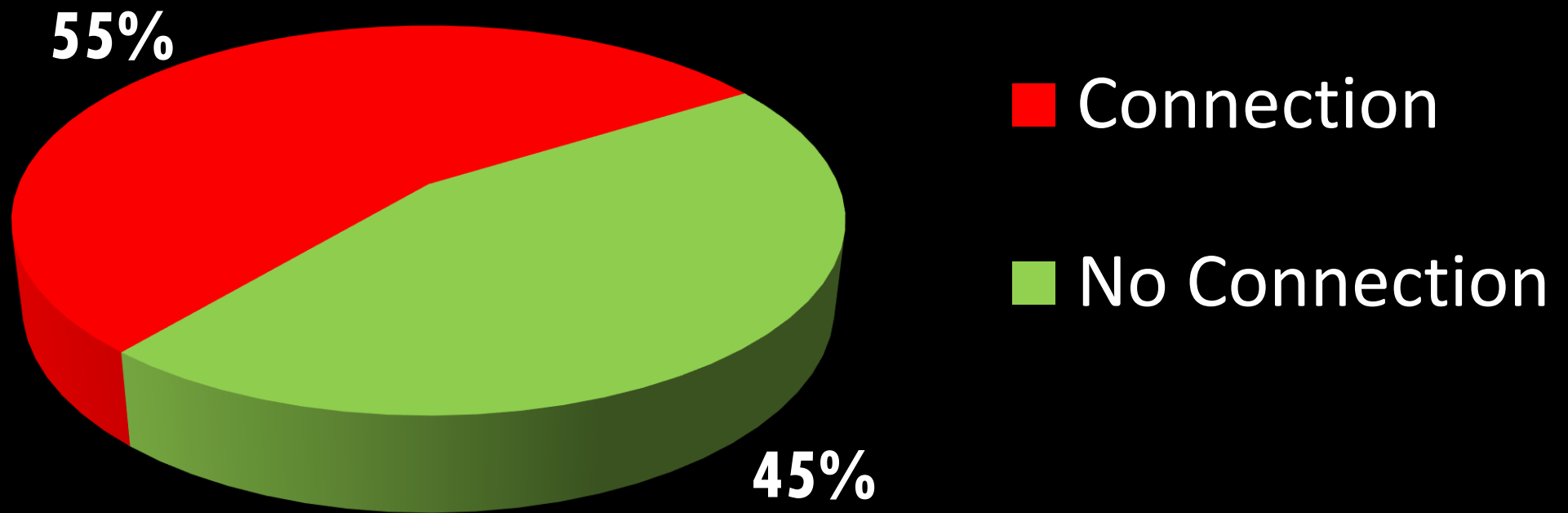
2014



Location of Attacks



Shooter Connection





Fort Hood, TX (2009)

Chattanooga, TN (2015)





Edmond, OK (1986)

Number of Deaths

- **Target availability**
- **How quickly the police arrive**



LEA

3 Minute Rule



Civilian Response

Denial



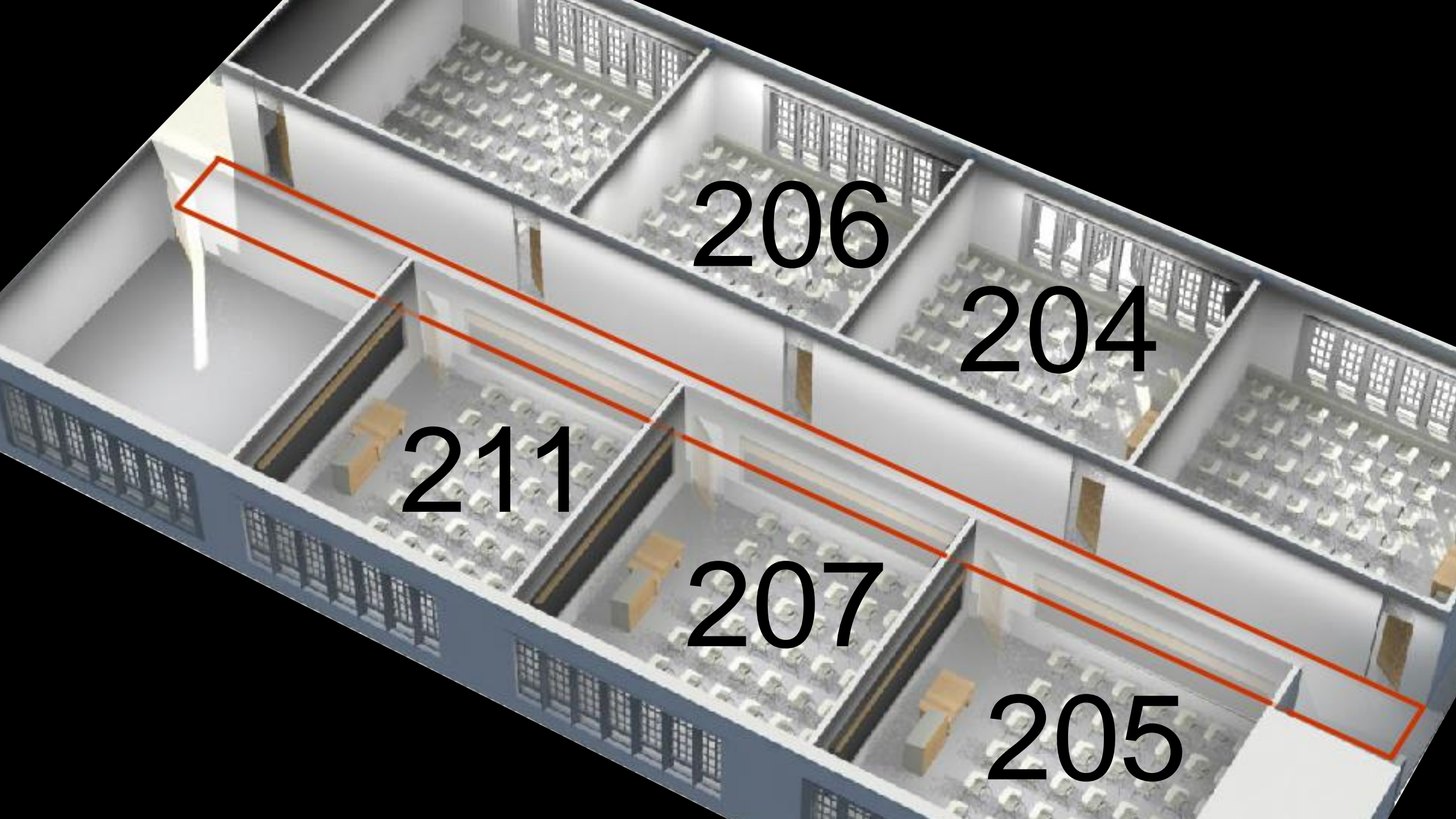
- **Don't Deny**
- **Hear Gunshots**
- **Go to deliberation**

An aerial photograph of the Virginia Tech campus, showing a dense collection of buildings, green spaces, and parking lots. The text "Virginia Tech" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font. The campus is surrounded by lush green fields and trees, with a river visible in the upper left. The buildings are a mix of traditional brick and modern architectural styles. The overall scene is a vibrant representation of a university campus in autumn.

Virginia Tech

A perspective view of a long, empty hallway. The walls are made of light-colored brick. The floor is highly reflective, showing clear reflections of the ceiling lights and the windows at the end of the hallway. The ceiling has several rectangular fluorescent light fixtures. At the far end of the hallway, there is a row of four large, multi-paned windows. Above the windows, a red exit sign is visible. The overall atmosphere is quiet and institutional.

2nd Floor



2006

2004

2011

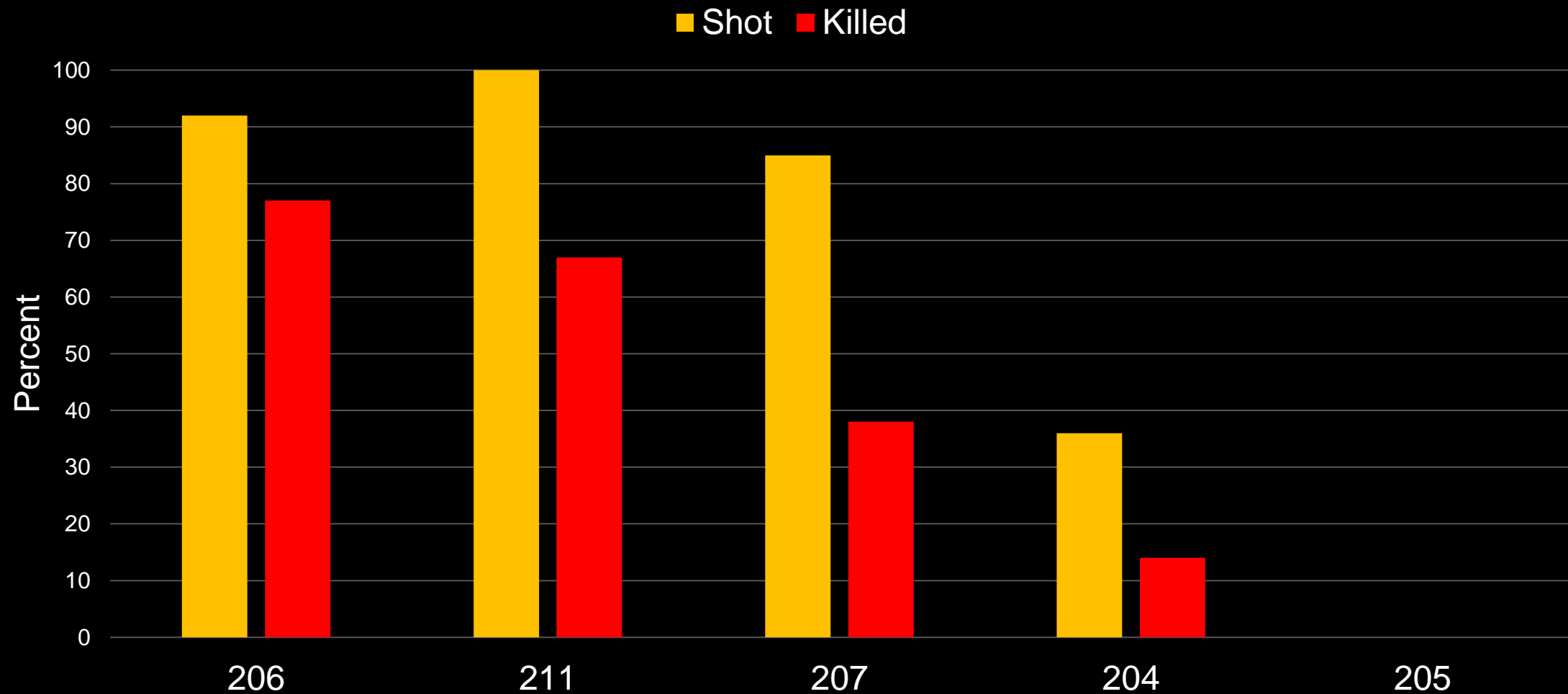
2007

2005

Playing dead



Casualty Stats





Hide & Hope

Deliberation

- Avoid
- Deny
- Defend
- Assess
- Run
- Hide

Avoid

**Situational
Awareness**



Avoid

- **Leave asap**
- **Know exits**
- **Call Police**



Deny

- **Lock door**
- **Lights out**
- **Out of sight**

Barricade

- **Heavier**
- **More**
- **Make Doorstops**

Deny

Outward opening

- **Ropes**
- **Tactical Cinch**

Defend

- **Positioning**
- **Grab the gun**
- **Fight**



Defend

I'm not going out in a parking lot.
I'm not going out like this
I'm not going let my wife down
I'm not going let my daughter down
I'm not letting my step-kids down.

Lt Brian Murphy
Sikh-temple-shooting

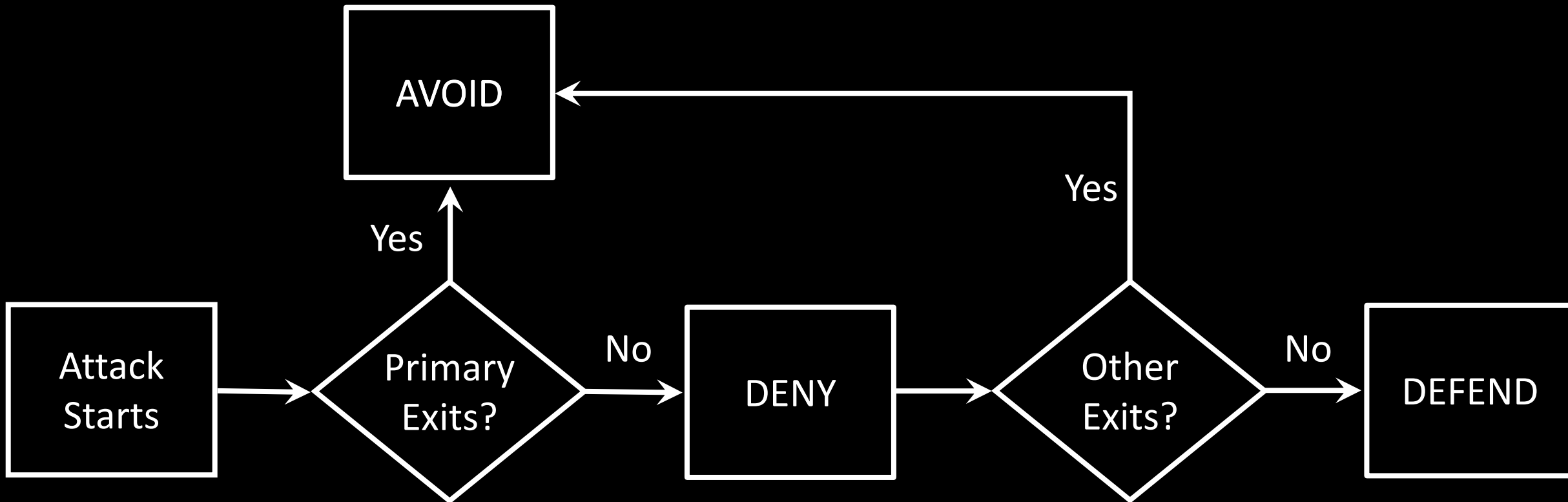


PLEASE NOTE



You are not helpless

What you do matters



When Police Arrive

Police Goal

- **Stop the Killing**
- **Stop the Dying**
- **Evacuate the Area**



Your actions

- **Follow commands**
- **Show your palms**
- **Stay in one place**



How can you help

- **Delay of medics**
- **Assist those in need**
- **Go for “Immediate Responder Training”**



Personnel Issues

- **Expect mental trauma**
- **Develop a critical incident stress management plan**

