



**AUGUSTA**  
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## **Augusta takes community approach to prepare for potential active shooter hostile events**

#StrongAugusta builds model framework in collaboration between Augusta University and multiple community partners

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**AUGUSTA, Ga.** (March 10, 2023) – A diverse group of multidisciplinary stakeholders is leading an effort to utilize National Fire Protection Association’s Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program to build a community-wide framework identifying the program elements to develop, plan, coordinate, evaluate and sustain a whole community ASHER Program in Augusta.

The effort, begun in 2019 but temporarily sidelined by COVID, has benefited greatly by the ongoing collaboration of a diverse cadre of local as well as national architects and delegates including:

- Augusta University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPaR)
- Augusta University Center of Operational Medicine
- Augusta University Police Department
- Richmond County Sheriff’s Office
- Augusta Richmond County Fire and EMA
- Richmond County Marshals Office
- Richmond County Board of Education Police Department
- National Fire Protection Association
- Doctors Hospital
- East Central Georgia Healthcare Coalition
- Federal Bureau of Investigation – Augusta Office
- US Department of Homeland Security-CISA
- US Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The unique effort was launched Feb. 7 at a symposium attended by more than 250 community members gathered to witness civic leaders testify to the importance of this initiative and to learn from national subject matter experts on preparedness, response and recovery pertaining to ASHER situations.

A yearlong campaign of no-cost community assessment, education and training is now underway, all designed to make the Augusta community better prepared for the unthinkable.

Topics include:

- Civilian response to active shooter
- Stop the Bleed, which offers bleeding control training
- The Power of Hello, with instruction to recognize warning signs of potential violence and build relationships with coworkers, students, and the community
- The Pathway to Violence, which provides information on the behavior indicators assailants often demonstrate before a violent act

The initiative's goal is to host a minimum of two events monthly throughout 2023.

March events include:

- Security Briefing on Countering Active Threats: 1 p.m. March 19, Congregation Children of Israel, 3005 Walton Way
- Drone/UAS Public Awareness Briefing: 6 p.m. March 20, Doctors Hospital, 3623 J. Dewey Grey Circle

For more information on #StrongAugusta or to request education and training for your organization, please contact [strongaugusta@augusta.edu](mailto:strongaugusta@augusta.edu).

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As one of Georgia's four public research institutions, Augusta University offers customizable, accessible education on campuses in Augusta and across the state. Augusta University aims not only to be different, but also to make a difference — to reimagine and recreate the future of art, technology, education and health care. Home to Georgia's only public academic medical center and designated by the state as a health sciences center of excellence, Augusta University is dedicated to creating a safer, healthier and more equitable Georgia.

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