



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Hearing the date of September 11th brings back a flood of memories. The memories are different for each of us, depending on where you were and where your loved ones were. Documentaries that follow that infamous day stir up sadness, anger, fear & patriotism.

While there is not much we, as individuals, can do to prevent terrorist attacks of the scale remembered 20 years ago. There are things we can do to help with our own safety and be prepared in an emergency situation.

Be observant!

Whether at work, at home, or out in public; being fully aware of your surroundings helps prevent being caught off-guard. This constant awareness may give you the essential, additional time to react in a manner that gets you out of harm's way or prevents an accident or crime before it happens to you.

MSU-PD relays good advice: "Public apathy is a criminal's greatest ally. If you see or suspect criminal activity, you cannot assume that someone else has reported it. Whether you are a victim or an observer, you should report any crime, suspicious activity, or emergency... remember, you don't need proof that a crime has occurred."

Have a plan.

Think of situations that could happen at work, driving down the road or just walking through a parking lot. Then "what if..." these scenarios and plan how you can best react. Forethought put into unusual situations will help you react quicker and more effective when there is little time to stop and think.

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Act quickly!

Your two action choices in an emergency are fight or flight. But then again, you may be too far in the emergency already to have a choice. Regardless, you have to act quickly. Take on the threat and fight your way to safety or leave and get away from the danger.

This is hauntingly evident in the stories and heroes of September 11, 2001:

Flight Action -

2,606 died in the World Trade Centers (WTC) and 125 died in the Pentagon. On that day, there were approximately 19,000 people inside the WTC and 18,000 people inside the Pentagon. Numerous escaped and survived because they quickly evacuated at the initial alarms.

If you are not familiar with the story, read about Rick Rescorla's actions and his leadership with the Morgan Stanley employees.

<https://www.thestoryleader.com/storylibrary//2016/07/911-emergency-evacuation-morgan-stanley.html>

Fight Action-

The fourth hijacked plane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed, never reaching its intended target because its crew and passengers fought back against the terrorists. These 40 souls lost their lives in that field in rural Pennsylvania, preventing additional deaths at the intended target if the plane had continued.

https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/flight-93#section_3

Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks, a number that would almost certainly have been significantly higher if not for the actions of those that acted quickly.

May we never forget the victims and heroes of that day!



Sources:

MSU Police – "Preventing Campus Crime"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_September_11_attacks