



**FireDoorSolutions**  
*Compliance Made Easy*



**The Complete Active Shooter Barricade Solution™**

There are numerous door barricades on the market that will adequately delay or prohibit entry into a secure area. Unfortunately, many of the models rushed to market in response to the widely-publicized active shooter events in schools and government buildings don't comply with current life safety codes and often inhibit timely and safe egress in case of fire.

Regardless of the door barricade used to secure an area, compliance with life safety codes is essential, even if only with minor waivers to allow a door assembly to serve its dual purpose for egress in case of fire and preventing ingress in case of an active shooter lockdown. In addition, given the rare yet essential use of a door barricade to prevent entry to a secure area, the use of the barricade must be wrapped in a lockdown plan, a comprehensive survey, inspection, installation, and post-inspection plan. Training of personnel and notification of first responders for purpose of breach in case of intentional actuation or misuse is essential.

Toward this end, the following Plan for a door-mounted barricade, with Instant-up-Actuation™ wifi alert to any school's mass notification platform, is an essential part of an effective life safety/door barricade solution. We also direct the reader to [NFPA 3000](#), a recent publication by the NFPA providing guidelines and protocols for volunteers and first responders in case of an active shooter emergency.

**Facility/Campus Lockdown Plan Elements**

Door barricades can provide a threat or obstacle to the essential egress of people in case of a fire. Similarly, requirements for ease of egress in case of fire pose a threat or obstacle to the essential security in the event of an active shooter incident. Whatever barricade is used must provide for both door assembly uses.

For a facility to use a door-mounted barricade properly, and protect against its misuse, inclusion of the barricade in a facility's or campus' life safety and lockdown plan is essential. Based upon Fire Marshal approval in some U.S. jurisdictions, below are some normative requirements to be included in a life safety/lockdown plan:

- ✓ A facility's or campus' lockdown plan shall include instructions for reporting to local first responders an active shooter emergency resulting in a lockdown.<sup>1</sup> In the case an installed wife alert/mass notification alarm like Fire Door Armor, the plan will include notification of first responders and notification of any monitoring service.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include specific accountabilities for staff and employees to report to first responders the presence and approximate locations of occupants within locked down facilities.<sup>2</sup> Fire Door Armor's Instant-upon-Actuation™ system will emit the room location from which the initial alert was sent and capture data of subsequent actuations. Fire Door Armor's 24/7 monitoring will provide redundancy, verification, and supplemental first responder notification.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall require frequent, periodic, and new hire or guest training in case of lockdown and instructions on actuating the door barricade, and related rules for minimizing any misuse. All such training must be performed at least annually and documented for review by local Fire Marshals or other Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs).
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include a means and accountabilities for a mass notification indicating that an active shooter emergency is imminent and to either 1) actuate door barricade in place, or 2) proceed to designated safe rooms/areas and actuate door barricade. A similar mass notification (prearranged signal) will be documented, trained, and assigned to key personnel to be sent upon clearing an active shooter lockdown.<sup>3</sup> With the wide acceptance and adoption of the A.L.I.C.E. Training Program for schools, Fire Door Armor makes the A.lert, L.ockdown, and I.nform elements of the protocol essentially simultaneous, providing the advantage of time in an active shooter emergency.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include an approved means of two-way communication between a central or control location and each secured area.<sup>4</sup>
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include training and verification of occupants securing within taped/painted out-of-sight zones to ensure protection from active shooter line-of-sight.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include active shooter drill routines at least twice annually, whereby mass notification is made, occupants obey notification instructions, door barricades are actuated, and door breaches (from outside the barricaded doors) are tested on a sample basis. Optionally installed audio alarms and wifi alerts will be test quarterly.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall provide the process by which door barricade failures are reported, both to facility administration, and to local first responders/AHJs.

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<sup>1</sup> Mark Schell, Division Chief of Fire Protection and Education, Durham County Fire Marshal's Office, letter dated February 3, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

- ✓ The lockdown plan shall indicate the time frame in which door barricade failures reported will be repaired, restored, and retested. In no case, will this time exceed 30 days.
- ✓ The lockdown plan shall include the requirements for logging all misuse of the door barricade, parties involved or witness to the misuse, consequences thereof, and any corrective actions resulting from each investigation of misuse. The records will be made available to local AHJs upon request.

We believe this rigorous plan of training, documentation, notification, drills, actuation, breaching, reporting, repairing and repeating must be implemented in concert with the installation and implementation of a door barricade to protect the public. These procedures serve to both enhance the safety of occupants in the case of an active shooter lockdown and mitigate the risk of misuse and reinforce egress requirements in case of fire or simultaneous fire/lockdown events.

### **Door-mounted Door Barricade Certification/Inspection/Installation Plan**

To ensure proper installation and fail-safe actuation on both non-fire rated door assemblies, a comprehensive and holistic approach to facility life safety must accompany any qualifying door-mounted barricade hardware. Below are the requirements for surveying, inspecting, repairing, installing, testing, inspecting (post-installation), and on-going inspections for a door-mounted door barricade:

#### **Facility and Door Survey:**

Before any installation of a door-mounted barricade can be installed, a facility door survey must be performed. The purpose of this survey is to identify the doors to which the client wishes to attach the barricade, assess the readiness of doors selected for installation, identify those doors that are fire-rated (prohibiting installation unless a barricade is fire rated), requiring pre-installation inspection, notate those doors on an architectural drawing where doors are noted/listed, and clarify the scope of work for inspection and installation. A door-mounted barricade can only be installed on a hollow-metal, or solid wood/mineral core door installed in hollow metal door frames. A hollow-core wood door is insufficient for installation of a door-mounted barricade, as are wood door frames

#### **Door Preparation and Inspection:**

The key functioning element of a door-mounted door barricade is the registration/alignment of the blade/post (only moving element of the barricade) to the receiving hole in the floor plate. Installing a door-mounted barricade without inspecting the door and adjusting clearances prior to installation, places the effective operation of the barricade at risk (potentially missing the receiving hole) once a door is subsequently adjusted for improper clearances.

Those inspecting the door must be qualified consistent with adopted life safety codes in the jurisdiction in which the door-mounted door barricades are to be installed. This ensures a thorough and proper inspection is completed pre-installation.

### **Door Installation:**

Due to the life safety and critical nature of this device in case of an active shooter lockdown, only certified professionals can install the door-mounted door barricade. The education and training will include a lab environment in which installers will be observed installing the door-mounted barricade until quality benchmarks are met consistently.

Certified installers will receive evidence of their certification and will be asked to present their credentials when asked or before initiating a barricade installation for a client.

Installers will be properly supervised, monitored, and audited for compliance to installation methods taught in the certification. Record of the installations will be maintained in a database accessible to both the client and the local AHJ and first responders.

Where the barricade is mounted on doors with glazing, a line-of-sight survey will be conducted with tape/paint lines marked for out-of-sight zones within the safe room or classroom.

### **Post-Installation Inspection:**

Immediately after inspection, the door-mounted barricade will be actuated and tested several times to ensure proper and reliable function. This will include testing of the device's wifi alert/mass notification function to first responders and any monitoring service. The barricade will also be tested through breaching from the side opposite the door-mounted barricade. Results of these tests will be maintained in a database accessible to both the client and the local AHJs and first responders.

The installer, prior to leaving the area, will deliver to facility administration and first-responders serialized breach devices to be used in the case of intentional actuation or misuse. The installer will train the facility administrators and local first-responders to use the breach device properly and the importance of keeping it available, yet out-of-sight from potential misuse. The installer will also provide reports to facility administration and local first responders of the doors on which the barricade has been installed.

### **Periodic Future Inspections/Repairs:**

The proper function of the door-mounted barricades in any given facility or campus will be tested at least seasonally and during or in conjunction with any active-shooter drills. Any door barricade failures experienced during drills are to be reported, both to facility administration, and to local first responders/AHJs.

Door barricade local audio alarms and/or wifi alerts to first responders and any monitoring service will be tested and reported-on bi-annually, but preferably quarterly.

An inspection of the door-mounted barricades will be executed at least twice annually with records of the inspections, findings, and ultimate repairs kept in a database accessible by facility administration and AHJs.

These comprehensive plans and procedures make a door-mounted barricade, not only viable, but essential to maintaining fire door compliance with current life safety codes, to ensuring safe egress in case of fire, and to providing secure spaces for persons entrusted to our schools, commercial buildings, and government employers/buildings across the country and around the world.