

TYPES OF ATTACK

1 Physical on- or off-campus attack on lab members, their families, personal property, or research facilities.

Start with **A**.

2 Threat of physical attacks.

Review emergency plans and safety precautions. Increase security.

3 Public media (newspaper, TV, electronic) attack, including insider attacks on a research facility based on written or video-taped “evidence.”

Start with **B**. Most nuanced because one does not want to encourage a minor flareup to escalate.

WHAT TO DO

A. Immediately call local or campus police to assess health, safety and security of people, animals, property, and experimental equipment/data.

If possible, avoid talking to the media before **B**.

- a. Campus police phone number _____
- b. Local police phone number _____
- c. Other emergency responders _____

B. Call your institution:

- a. Chair (or next higher level/manager at your institution), Public Information Officer, IACUC Chair, Dean of Research, School Deans (and/or equivalent authorities).
 - i. Public Information Officer phone number and email _____ / _____
 - ii. IACUC Chair phone number and email _____ / _____
 - iii. Dean of Research phone number and email _____ / _____
 - iv. Other (per institution recommendation) phone number and email _____ / _____
- b. Together with **a**, consult with media relations/press office at your institution/employer.
 - i. Media relations/press office phone number and email _____ / _____
- c. Do not post on social media or speak with journalists before consulting with **b**, as there should be a larger conversation in motion to evaluate the situation and send a cohesive message to the public through your institution (see below).
- d. Plan on informing funding sources after consulting with **a**.

C. Assess institutional support and contact SfN (advocacy@sfn.org) for materials (www.sfn.org/animals) as well as personal support and perspective from SfN's Committee on Animals in Research or SfN members who have successfully weathered such attacks.

D. Through your institution or close co-workers, consider forming an action support group to provide advice and moral support for the duration of a crisis.

E. Keep confidential any notes on events, actions, feelings, and advice received.

F. If accused of protocol non-compliance or animal abuse:

- a. Check for compliance with protocols by members of lab and animal facility.
 - i. If there are reasons to believe that protocols may not have been followed, consider requesting an informal review through your IACUC Chair.
 - ii. Even if you believe that protocols have been fully followed, consider requesting a formal review. This could allow you to get ahead of what is frequently done anyway and enables the IACUC Chair to be fully aware of your protocols and experiments. It also indicates that you have nothing to hide.

Assure Immediate/Ongoing Safety

- a. Alert those working in the lab and family members about the situation and advise them not to speak with the public or the press on the issue until further notice.
- b. Make sure that your lab and home are properly secured and monitored.
- c. For as long as there are threats or pressure, have a regular communication plan with your administration, your co-worker and members of your lab.

SOURCES

<https://www.sfn.org/initiatives/animals-in-research/support-for-members-and-institutions>

<https://speakingofresearch.com/extremism-undone/ar-extremism/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4553027/>

<https://www.jneurosci.org/content/29/37/11419>

<https://www.nabr.org/animal-rights-extremism/>

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/animal-rights-extremists>

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