



# ACTIVE SHOOTER



An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

## Coping With an Active Shooter Situation

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down.
- CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO!



## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Remember that customers and clients are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter situation.

### RUN / ESCAPE

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Stop individuals from entering the active shooter area
- Keep your hands visible and do not run to police officers
- Follow the instructions of any police officers
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
- Call 911 when you are safe



### HIDE OUT

If evacuation is not possible, find a hiding place and ensure the following:



- Be out of the active shooter's view
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (*i.e., an office with a closed and locked door*)
- Do not trap yourself or restrict your options for movement to prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:
- Lock the door
- Block the door with heavy furniture

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY (CONT'D)



### If the active shooter is nearby:

- Lock the door
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager
- Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
- Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
- Remain quiet

### If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:

- Remain calm
- Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen

## TAKE ACTION

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions



### Information to provide to law enforcement or 911 operator:

- Location of active shooter(s)
- How many shooter(s)
- Description of shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
- Number of potential victims

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.

- Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4)
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns, pepper spray, tear gas
- Officers may shout commands and push individuals to ground for their safety

## HOW TO REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers, don't grab on to them
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons. Rescue teams that follow the initial officers will treat and remove any injured persons. They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises. Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control, and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.