RiskWise

A Guide to Controlling Risk

Active Shooter Preparedness

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Active Shooter Preparedness

An active shooter situation 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. These situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.

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. — U.S. Department of Homeland   Security

Risks to Agencies

- Public or employee(s) personal injury or loss of life
- State property repair or replacement costs
- Third-party property damage
- Work force shift and loss in productivity
- Agency risk charges increases

Image from RUN.HIDE.FIGHT readyhoustontx.gov

If You See Something, Say Something™

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security started the *If You See Something, Say Something™* Campaign. This campaign empowers the individual, officials, and public servants to protect their neighbors and the communities they live and work in by recognizing and reporting suspicious activity.

Contact local law enforcement to report suspicious activity. Describe specifically what was observed:

For Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos please view the Protect Your Every Day PSA, Hospitality PSA and other PSA and Awareness Campaign Materials.

Active Shooter Response Options

You must quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life in these situations. Customers and clients are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter event.

1. Run	2. Hide	3. Fight
Have an escape route and plan in mind	Hide in an area out of the active shooter's view	Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
Leave your belongings behind	Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors	Attempt to incapacitate the active shooter
Keep your hands visible	Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet	Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO

How to Respond when Law Enforcement Arrives on Scene

The first officers arriving on scene will not stop and help the injured. Their purpose is stopping the active shooter as soon as possible. Expect rescue teams to follow initial officers.

How to react when law enforcement arrives:	Information to provide to law enforcement of 911 operator:
Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions	Location of the active shooter
Put down any items in your hands (e.g., bags, jackets)	Number of shooters
Immediately raise hands, keep hands visible and spread fingers	Physical description of the shooter
Avoid making quick movements toward officers	Number and type of weapons shooter has
Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling	Number of potential victims at location

Online and Self-Education Options

Videos
- ReadyHoustonTX.gov RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.® Surviving an active shooter event
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Options for Consideration Active Shooter Preparedness

Materials
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter Booklet, Pamphlet, Poster, Pocket Card, and Planning and Response to an Active Shooter: An Interagency Security Committee Policy and Best Practices Guide
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Emergency Management Institute Active Shooter: What You Can Do Interactive Web Based Course
- Ready.gov — Active Shooter Response Steps and Information

Organization Preparedness and Ongoing Assessment

While there are many aspects to consider when developing and implementing a Site Evacuation Coordination or Safety Plan that works for each agency or location, having a plan in place for an active shooter (also referred to as an *armed and dangerous intruder*) event is a critical component. Not only is having a plan important, but so is making sure it is shared and understood by those meant to use it. Continually assessing its effectiveness is an neccesary step to maintaining your plan as well. Below are some considerations and resources that can help in the development, coordination, and maintenance of a response plan for an active shooter event.

- Is there a written response plan in place?
- How is it shared with intended users?
- When is the plan reviewed? And who reviews it?
- Has the security of the building or location been assessed; if so, how are these assessments used?
- Have security policies or procedures been tested?

U.S. Department of Homeland Security: Emergency Action Plan Guide for Active Shooter Preparedness, Active Shooter Webinar, and more tools for Active Shooter Preparedness.

Additional Resources, Links and Information

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: If You See Something, Say Something™
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: Active Shooter Resources Site
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: Active Shooter Incidents Study
- Ready Houston, TX: Regional Disaster Preparedness
- FEMA — You Are the Help Until Help Arrives
- American College of Surgeons — Stop the Bleed
- Capitol Mall Patrol Office: Active Shooter Training/Tips 503-986-1122

[https://www.oregon.gov/das/Risk/Pages/PubsToolsRes.aspx]