

LIS SOLUTIONS SECURITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ACTIVE SHOOTER

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What is an Active Shooter?

An active shooter is anyone who wants to attempt to injure or kill people in confined and populated areas, often displaying no pattern in selecting victims.

In many cases there are warning signs, which can prevent incidents from occurring if they are recognized early. History has shown that individuals who become active shooters in the workplace often display potentially violent behavior over time. Indicators of potentially violent behavior include:

- ▶ Aggression or threats towards coworkers
- ▶ Presence of unauthorized weapons
- ▶ Abnormal mood swings or depression, withdrawn behavior, decrease in hygiene, paranoia
- ▶ Increased use of alcohol or illegal drugs
- ▶ Suicidal remarks or comments about "putting things in order"
- ▶ Repeated violations of policies, regulations, or laws
- ▶ Talk about severe financial problems

Active shooters can happen anywhere. If you recognize these behaviors, whether you are in grocery store, a stadium, or workplace, you must report any observed indicators of an active shooter to a person of authority. Finally, if you perceive an immediate threat, call 911.

Active Shooter Response

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and can evolve quickly—even before law enforcement personnel can arrive. In an active shooter event, it is your responsibility to quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your life, and other lives around you. Before an incident ever happens, you can take steps to protect yourself:

- ▶ Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- ▶ Know the emergency procedures, personnel, and equipment at your facility
- ▶ Take notes of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- ▶ Have local emergency numbers readily accessible
 - Emergency Services: 9 -1 -1 LOCAL
 - Emergency Information Line
 - Local Police Department, Fire Department, and Hospital
- ▶ Prepare a workplace Active Shooter Response Plan

During an active shooter situation, there are three primary responses:

- 1. Evacuate:** If it's at all possible, escape is the best course of action in surviving an active shooter situation.
 - To evacuate successfully, have an escape route and plan in mind.
 - Leave your belongings behind and evacuate even if others do not follow you.
 - If you are able, help others escape and warn people to prevent them from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
 - While evacuating, keep your hands visible at all times to make sure you are not mistaken for the shooter.
 - Follow the instructions of any security personnel or law enforcement that you encounter.
 - Do not attempt to move wounded people.

When you reach safety, call emergency personnel if they have not yet arrived on the scene.

- 2. Shelter in Place:** If evacuation is not possible, your next best option is to find a place to hide. A good hiding place is one that is out of the active shooter's view that will protect you if shots are fired in your direction. Choose an office or other room with a door you can close and lock, ideally one that will not cut off your options for escape. If possible, blockade the door with heavy furniture.



Then take these steps to avoid notice:

- Silence your cell phone and turn off any other source of noise (radio, TV)
- Hide behind large items like cabinets or desks
- Remain quiet and calm

3. Take Action against the Shooter (As a last resort!!!):

Only if your life is in imminent danger, try to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter. Taking action against the active shooter is extremely risky but may be the best chance of survival for you and others. If you decide to assume the risk, you must remain committed to your actions. Any hesitation could be fatal. Time your response to coincide with the shooter's need to reload or remove or replace his magazine. Act aggressively, throw items, improvise weapons, and yell. Respond with speed, stealth, and violence of action.

Read this article at your leisure to learn more about active shooters: Nieberg, P. (2025, May 7). This army combat medic fought off an active shooter and rendered first aid. Task & Purpose. <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-combat-medic-shooting/>

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