

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

You must quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life and the lives of others you may be responsible for.

## RUN/EVACUATE

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the area or premises.

Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Help others escape if possible.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Call 9-1-1 when it is safe to do so.

## HIDE

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.

Your hiding place should:

- Be out of the active shooter's view.
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.

To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door.
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture.
- If possible, call 9-1-1 to alert police to the active shooter's location.

If the active shooter is nearby:

- Silence your cell phone or pager.
- Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions) and turn out the lights.
- Try to remain calm and stay quiet. Do not leave until help arrives even if the fire alarms go off.

## FIGHT

If evacuation or hiding are not possibilities, you may have to consider taking action against the active shooter.

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 using improvised weapons.
- Yelling.
  - If you are with others, devise a plan and commit to it.



# 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 may be wearing regular patrol uniforms, external bulletproof vests, helmets or other tactical equipment. *Plain clothes officers, such as detectives, may also respond.*
- Officers will be armed with handguns and possibly rifles or shotguns.
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation.
- Officers may shout commands and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.

## **How to react when law enforcement arrives:**

- Remain calm and follow the officers' instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets).
- Immediately raise your hands and spread your fingers.
- Keep your hands visible at all times.
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers.
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling.

## **Information to provide to law enforcement or a 9-1-1 operator:**

- Location of the active shooter.
- Number of shooters, if more than one.
- Physical description of shooter(s).
- Number and type of weapons used by the shooter(s).
- Number of potential victims and their locations.

## **The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons.**

Expect rescue teams comprised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to follow the initial officers. Rescue personnel will treat and remove any injured persons. They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the area.

## **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.**

All witnesses must be identified and interviewed.

***Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.***

For further information please visit:

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active\\_shooter\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf)



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