

ACTIVE SHOOTER AWARENESS

What is an Active Shooter? An Active Shooter is a person(s) who are actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people.

When it comes to active shooter situations, there is one aspect of predictability. Active Shooters do not want a gun fight. If they did there would be more active shooters at Police Stations. They want a target rich environment that doesn't allow its patrons the opportunity to defend themselves with a firearm. Active shooters typically want a high body count. Statistically speaking, active shooter situations are over within 10 – 15 minutes on average. In most cases, the active shooter scene has concluded by the time responding officers arrive.

Because Active Shooter situations are often over within 10-15 minutes, individuals must be prepared mentally & physically to move the sound of the gun fire and engage the threat immediately.

Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Take note of any exits nearest to you in any facility you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door (if possible).
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door, turn out the lights, and silence your cell phone.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.
- Call 911 as soon as possible and only if you are in an area that will not give away your position to the shooter.

Should you find yourself in a situation where you must hide, turn off lights, lock doors (if available) close shutters or blinds on windows (if available), silence your cell phone and do NOT hide directly behind the door (in the case the shooter decides to try to shoot locks or through the door).

Should the Active Shooter find you, **do not** attempt to deescalate or reason with them. They are there to kill you, get your mind right. Attack the Active Shooter with every ounce of violence and aggression you can muster. If you are shot, know you are not necessarily out of the fight. If you are still capable of moving, you are still in the fight. Even if you have been shot you still have a 97% probability of surviving a gunshot wound, due to the advances in medical technology and the proximity to local medical facilities. Keep fighting until the threat is no longer a threat. Your life is worth fighting for and the more you mentally prepare for the day you pray never comes, the more likely you are to survive. Training does not cost you nearly as much as not training.

