



Integrity ~ Loyalty ~ Community



How to Respond to an Active Shooter Event

Disclaimer:

Indiana State Police encourages “Prevention” over “Response” in the case of active shooter preparedness. By educating society on the early warning characteristics of a pending active shooter event some actions may be prevented.

For more information on early warning indicators of an active shooter, please see Indiana State Police’s “Unarmed Response to an Active Shooter Event” program. This information is provided for free on Indiana State Police’s website.

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, students, and clients are likely to follow the lead of educators, employees, and managers during an active shooter situation.

ESCAPE: If there is a secure path to a pre-determined, protected area, attempt to evacuate the premises.

- Know the location of the shooter.
- Be aware of your surroundings; know the threats and risks of the location.
 - You cannot respond appropriately if you are unaware of the risks and threats around you.
- Have a plan of execution and alternate escape routes in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter is present, if possible.
- Keep your hands visible, empty, and high.
- Appear as non-threatening as possible.
- Follow the instructions of all law enforcement personnel.
- Call when you are safe.

LOCKDOWN: If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is least likely to find you and initiate lockdown.

HIDE:

- Immediately lock and barricade the door of the pre-determined safe area.
- Remain out of the shooter's sight
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door).
- Your hiding place should not trap you or restrict your options for movement.
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture to provide cover from the shooter.
- Lock the doors to prevent an active shooter from entering.
- Safe areas must have solid doors that can be rapidly locked and secured.
- Pre-identify furniture and objects in the safe area that can be used to barricade the door.
- Adhere to the principles of "Concealment and Cover" and seek to conceal yourself at all times.
- Understand that cover may stop a bullet; concealment will only hide you (i.e., choose a desk, cabinet, etc. to hide behind).
- Silence all electronic devices (Cell phones, computers, tablets, pagers, and smartwatches, etc.).
- Silence all sources of noise (Radios, television, cameras, etc.).
- Remain quiet and calm.
- If you can safely do so, call 911 to alert the police to the active shooter's location.
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open to allow the dispatcher to listen.

Note: Store emergency supplies in the safe room or area that have been developed specifically to support the population of that safe room or area.

FIGHT: Take 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 doing the following:

- Utilize pre-identified items such as chairs, laptop computers, or other hard, heavy objects as weapons.

"If you plan and prepare you are capable of doing far more than you think you can"

- **Superintendent Douglas Carter**

- Act aggressively against the active shooter.
- Yelling
- Commit to your actions and follow through.
- Throw items and improvise weapons from objects around you (pens, keys, bags, office supplies on tables, etc.)
- Bring the shooter into your "Circle of Violence"

Circle of Violence – Defined as bringing the shooter into a position in which your improvised weapon(s) become effective. Coordinating your attack with others is suggested.

- Use the element of surprise when attacking. Focus on taking a position out of line of sight of the shooter to take advantage of this element.

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 wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns.
- 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
- 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 such as holding on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming, and/or yelling.

Note: Follow all commands given by law enforcement.