



Antiterrorism  
**Active Shooter**  
Community Response



# Coping with an Active Shooter

**Evacuate**

**Hide**

**Take Action**

## **Profile of an Active Shooter**

An Active Shooter incident is when one or more subjects participate in a shooting spree, random or systematic with intent to continuously harm others. (Source: U.S. Army Military Police School, Active Shooter POI)

An Active Shooter may be a current or former employee associated with the U.S. Army (Soldier, Department of Army Civilian, Government Contractor, or Family Member).

An Active Shooter could also be an individual not directly associated with the Army who gains access to an Army installation, stand alone facility, or unit.

## **Characteristics of an Active Shooter Incident**

- The event is unpredictable and evolves rapidly
- Victims are generally targets of opportunity
- Military Police or Law Enforcement direct action is usually required to end an Active Shooting incident

## **Recognizing Signs of High-Risk Behavior**

Indicators of potential violent behavior may include one or more of the following (not all inclusive):

- ★ Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- ★ Unexplained increase in absenteeism or vague physical complaints
- ★ Depression or withdrawal
- ★ Increased severe mood swings and noticeably unstable or emotional responses
- ★ Increasingly talks about personal problems or problems at home
- ★ Increase in unsolicited comments about violence, firearms, and other dangerous weapons or violent crimes

## How to Respond

### When Shooting Begins

#### 1. Evacuate

- Have an exit route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

#### 2. Hide

- Hide in an area out of the Active Shooter's view
- Lock doors and block entry to your hiding place

#### 3. Take Action

- As a last resort
- Only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the Active Shooter

### When Police Arrive

- ★ Try to remain calm
- ★ Obey all Police instructions
- ★ Put down any items in your hands (such as backpacks, phones, jackets)
- ★ Raise your hands, spread your fingers, and keep hands visible to Police at all times
- ★ Avoid quick or sudden movements
- ★ Avoid pointing, screaming, or yelling
- ★ Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction while evacuating

## Information

Call 911 (or other local emergency number) when it is safe to do so.

You should provide the following information to the Police or the 911 Operator:

- Location of the shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons the shooter have
- Number of possible victims

## Prepare for an Active Shooter Event

- Rehearse your actions (Evacuate – Hide – Take Action)
- Conduct after action review of rehearsals
- Be aware of your surroundings and possible dangers
- Take note of the nearest exits in any facility you visit

