



Office of Inspector General Awareness Bulletin:

Surviving an Active Shooter Event—RUN, HIDE, FIGHT!

Active Shooter Response and Preparedness

As unpleasant a topic as this is, the reality of the risk and frequency of active shooter incidents has increased in recent years, at the very least affecting our perception of safety and well-being in public spaces and the workplace. While it is highly unlikely that any one person will become involved in an active shooter incident, it is essential that each of us be prepared. Active shooter situations by their nature are unpredictable, happen quickly, and may end before law enforcement arrives. We need to give thought to what we should do at work in in public places

This information will help you prepare for the possibility of an active shooter situation. The learning tools, planning resources, and response guides come from strategic federal partners including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Also take time to review your NEA facility's security procedures and Occupant Emergency Plan. Then share what you learn and use it to start a dialogue about active shooter response with your colleagues, friends, and family.

What You Need to Know

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and/or populated area. In most cases, firearms are the weapon of choice during mass casualty incidents, but any weapon can be used to harm innocent individuals. Typically there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims. Active shooter events are unpredictable and evolve quickly, often ending in 10-15 minutes.

Run, Hide, Fight

Because active shooter situations may be over before law enforcement arrives, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation. DHS encourages all personnel to learn the Run, Hide, Fight options for responding to an active shooter.

To begin to understand your options, please watch these short, dramatic videos about what may happen in an office environment during an active shooter incident:

- Run, Hide, Fight, sponsored by DHS in partnership with the City of Houston, shows how maintaining a Run, <https://youtu.be/5VcSwejU2D0> Hide, Fight mindset can increase the odds of survival.

Personal Preparedness Plans

Given that active shooter situations are dynamic in nature, the DHS encourages you to develop and build upon your personal preparedness efforts. Use the DHS resources below to help you assess your workplace area and develop your personal response plans:

DHS Active Shooter Quick Reference Guide (Informational Pamphlet) <H:\IG\OIG Awareness Bulletin\active-shooter-pamphlet-508.pdf>

DHS Active Shooter How to Respond Guidelines <H:\IG\OIG Awareness Bulletin\active-shooter-how-to-respond-508.pdf>

DHS Active Shooter Pocket Guide (PDF) C:\Users\binderm\Documents\active_shooter_pocket_card.pdf