

# WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER THREATENS

CALL CNU EMERGENCY NUMBER (757) 594-7777 or 911

## Prepare NOW

If you see suspicious activity, let an authority know right away.

**Many places, such as houses of worship, workplaces, and schools,** have plans in place to help you respond safely. Ask about these plans and get familiar with them. If you participate in an active shooter drill, talk with your family about what you learned and how to apply it to other locations.

**When you visit a building** such as a shopping mall or healthcare facility, take time to identify two nearby exits. Get in the habit of doing this.

**Map out places to hide.** In rooms without windows, behind solid doors with locks, under desks, or behind heavy furniture such as large filing cabinets can make good hiding places.

**Sign up for active shooter, first aid, and tourniquet training.** Learn how to help others by taking FEMA's You Are the Help Until Help Arrives course. Learn more at [ready.gov/until-help-arrives](https://ready.gov/until-help-arrives).

## Survive DURING

**AVOID.** Getting away from the shooter or shooters is the top priority. Leave your things behind and run away. If safe to do so, warn others nearby. Call 911 when you are safe. Describe each shooter, their locations, and weapons.

**DENY.** If you cannot get away safely, find a place to hide. Get out of the shooter's view and stay very quiet. Silence your electronic devices and make sure they won't vibrate. Lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off the lights. Do not hide in groups-spread out along walls or hide separately to make it more difficult for the shooter. Try to communicate with police silently-such as through text messages or by putting a sign in an exterior window. Stay in place until law enforcement give you notice that all immediate danger is clear.

**DEFEND.** Your last resort when you are in immediate danger is to defend yourself. Commit to your actions and act aggressively to stop the shooter. Ambushing the shooter together with makeshift weapons such as chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, and books can distract and disarm the shooter.

## Be Safe AFTER

**Keep hands visible and empty.**

**Know that law enforcement's first task** is to end the incident. They may have to pass injured persons along the way.

**Follow law enforcement directions** and evacuate in the direction they tell you to.

**Consider seeking professional help** for you and your family to cope with the long-term effects of trauma.

### Take an Active Role In Your Safety

Go to [ready.gov](https://ready.gov) and search for **active shooter**.

Get the **FEMA App** for more information about preparing for an **active shooter**.

Find Emergency Safety Tips.

#### WEBSITES

[www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

[www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-incidents](https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-incidents)

[www.avoiddenydefend.org/more-add-information](https://www.avoiddenydefend.org/more-add-information)

Recent national tragedies remind us that the risk is real. Taking a few steps now can help you react quickly when every second counts.

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# HOW TO RESPOND

## WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

**QUICKLY DETERMINE THE MOST REASONABLE WAY TO PROTECT YOUR OWN LIFE. CUSTOMERS AND CLIENTS ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF EMPLOYEES AND MANAGERS DURING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION.**

### 1. AVOID

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Have an exit plan.
- Move away from the source of the threat as quickly as possible.
- The more distance and barriers between you and the threat, the better.

### 2. DENY

- Keep distance between you and the source.
- Create barriers to prevent or slow down a threat from getting to you.
- Turn the lights off.
- Remain out of sight and quiet by hiding behind large objects and silence your phone

### 3. DEFEND

- If you cannot Avoid or Deny be prepared to defend yourself.
- Be aggressive and committed to your actions.
- Do not fight fairly. THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVAL.

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WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

## HOW TO RESPOND WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES ON THE SCENE

### 1. HOW YOU SHOULD REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES:

- Remain calm, and follow officer's instructions
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as attempting to hold them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

### 2. INFORMATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATORS:

- Location of the victim/s and the active shooter
- Number of shooter/s
- Physical description of shooter/s
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s
- Number of potential victims at the location

## RECOGNIZING SIGNS OF POTENTIAL WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

**AN ACTIVE SHOOTER MAY BE A CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEE. ALERT YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT IF YOU BELIEVE AN EMPLOYEE EXHIBITS POTENTIALLY VIOLENT BEHAVIOR. INDICATORS OF POTENTIALLY VIOLENT BEHAVIOR MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism, and/or vague physical complaints
- Depression/Withdrawal
- Increased talks of problems at home
- Increase in unsolicited comments about violence, firearms, and other dangerous weapons and violent crimes



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