

# Civilian Active Shooter Response



## Handout

Portland Police Bureau

Training Division

**Active Shooter:**

An armed person(s) who has used deadly physical force on another person and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.

**Active Shooter Facts:**

- Average active shooter events last 12 minutes
- 37% last less than 5 minutes
- 98% of active shooter events are committed by a single shooter
- 43% of active shooter events are over before police arrive

## RESOURCES

**Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter preparedness website:** <http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

Multiple resources including:

-Booklet: *Active Shooter: How to Respond*

[http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active\\_shooter\\_educational\\_booklet\\_508.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active_shooter_educational_booklet_508.pdf)

-Video: *Run. Hide. Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Event* (6 minutes)

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/active-shooter-and-mass-casualty-incidents/run-hide-fight-video>

-Video: *Options for Consideration* (10 minutes)

<http://www.dhs.gov/video/options-consideration-active-shooter-preparedness-video>

Site Specific:

***Workplace Violence: Issues in Response***

<http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/workplace-violence>

***Developing Emergency Operations Plans for Schools***

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/active-shooter-and-mass-casualty-incidents/emergency-plans-for-schools>

***Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship***

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/active-shooter-and-mass-casualty-incidents/emergency-plans-for-houses-of-worship>

# Preventing and Planning for an Active Shooter Event

## Research Previous Incidents

- Learn about previous incidents and similar sites
- Bring together a multidisciplinary team
- Tailor to meet your needs. There is no one-size-fits-all plan

## Conduct a Site Assessment

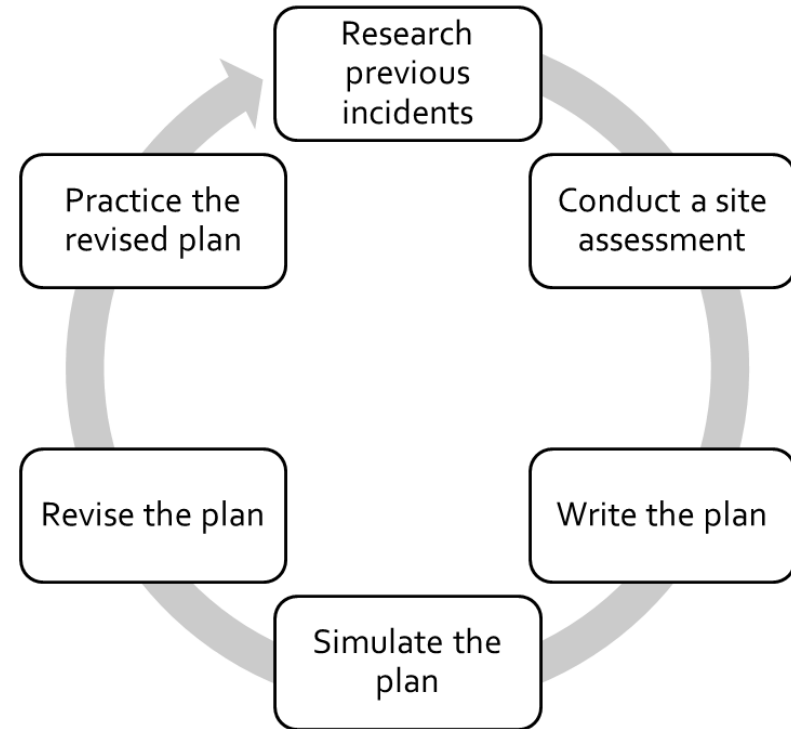
- Take an objective view of your site. Identify vulnerabilities.
- Ask Questions:
  - What kind of violence is possible at your site?
  - How would an Active Shooter enter and move through your site?
  - How could you make your site more secure?
  - Do you have a way to notify all employees of a possible event?
  - Where, and how many, escape routes are there for employees?
  - How will you account for all employees during an event?
  - Are there places you could store tools, medical supplies, and seek shelter?
  - Do you have extra keys or Master Keys available?
  - Do you have a lockout or lockdown procedure?

## Write the Plan

- Based on your research, write a sample plan that addresses how employees should respond to an Active Shooter
- Present the plan to a small number of employees (task group) and look for flaws

## Simulate the Plan

- Table Top
- Drill
- Scenario



## The Crisis Planning Cycle

Cooper, Martin, Coping With Crisis In a Complex World:  
International Council of Shopping Centers, Nov. 2013.

## Revise the Plan

- Critique the effectiveness of the plan
- Communicate the plan to your employees

## Practice the Plan

- Make as many revisions as needed to create a plan that employees buy into and use

## What to do During an Active Shooter Event Prior to Law Enforcement Arrival

Actions your plan might include:

- Lockout vs Lockdown Strategy
- Run! Hide! Fight!
- Rendering Aid to the Injured
- Contacting Law Enforcement

### **RUN!**

Can You:

- Run out of the building?
- Break out a window?
- Kick through a wall?
- Get others to go with you?
- Go far enough away to be safe
- Do not stop just outside the building
- Do not gather in a predetermined place  
in case the shooter knows where to find a group of victims

### **HIDE!**

Can You:

- Make your hiding spot safer?
- Barricade the door?
- Find a better place to hide?
- Silence your cellphone and be quiet?

### **FIGHT!**

Commit to the fight

- Use any and all means necessary to win the fight
- Improvise weapons
  - Chairs, hot water/coffee, fire extinguisher, golf club, ball point pen, scissors, necktie, telephone

### **AID TO THE INJURED**

- Pre-staged Medical Kits in rooms that may be used for lockdowns
- Medical Kits Should be Stocked with
  - Items to stop major bleeding (e.g. tourniquets, compression bandages)
    - Do you know how to stop major bleeding?
  - CPR mask
    - Do you know CPR?
- Can you request more training?
- If safe to do so, medical care can and should begin prior to first responders arriving
- If you are doing a good job of providing medical care, officers may have you continue providing care

### **CONTACTING LAW ENFORCEMENT-CALLING 911**

- Timely and accurate information is critical for police to respond effectively to an Active Shooter event
- What to tell 911 dispatch:
  - Location
  - Shooters description
  - Weapons
  - Number of victims

## What to Expect When Law Enforcement Arrives

- First arriving officers will be focused on finding the shooter and may not be able to stop and help you if the shooter is still active
  - Keep hands visible and free of weapons
  - If the event is still active, officers may only ask for crucial information before moving on
- Obey all instructions
- Officers will work to facilitate medical treatment to the injured as quickly as possible
  - If you are uninjured and hiding it may take time before law enforcement gets to your location (depending on the size of the event)
- Expect officers to ask if you have accounted for all of your employees or students
- Expect officers to ask for keys to access your building
- The investigation may take several hours or several days depending on the nature of the event
  - If you are a witness and uninjured you may be asked to remain on site to be interviewed

The time to create an Active Shooter response plan is **NOW**

**Run! Hide! Fight!**

# Definitions

**Active Shooter:** An armed person(s) who has used deadly physical force on another person and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.

**Conceal:** Shields or hides you from view, but does not stop bullets

**Cover:** Object which protects you from weapons

**Drill:** Practicing individual skills in a group context to prepare for an emergency.

**Lockout:** Locking the exterior doors/windows of a structure to prevent a nearby threat or emergency event from entering the structure.

**Lockdown:** A preplanned response to a threat or emergency event which is taking place inside a structure. A lockdown consists of locking internal doors and windows to restrict the threat or emergency event from spreading throughout the entire structure.

**Scenario:** A scripted sequence of events acted out by role players that follow specific learning objectives which allow people to make decisions and use any skills they have learned to respond to an emergency.

**Table Top:** Group discussion guided by a simulated emergency.

## Notes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---