

Active Shooter Safety Information

What is an active shooter?

An individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people, typically through the use of firearms in a confined and/or populated area.

If you are involved in an active shooter incident, try to remain calm and follow these procedures.



Turn off your mobile phone or set it to Airplane Mode.

Buzzing or ringing phones will bring attention to you or hiding places.



RUN.

Find an escape route and try to leave the area if you see an accessible path.

- Practice escape routes with friends or coworkers.
- Identify different pathways.
- Leave everything behind except your mobile phone.
- Do not linger or try to convince others to follow you.
- Only assist others if you can do so safely.
- Do not try to move wounded people.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the shooter may be.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Call 911 when you are away from the danger area.
- Follow any police officer instructions.



HIDE.

Hide where the shooter is less likely to find you.

Your hiding place should:

- Be out of the shooter's view
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (like a room with a closed and locked door)
- Not trap you or restrict your ability to move

To prevent a shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock doors; turn off lights; close blinds/curtains
- Block the door with heavy furniture
- Silence any source of noise (phones, radios, televisions, etc.) and remain quiet
- Hide behind large items (cabinets, desks, etc.)



FIGHT.

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against the shooter
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions

If evacuation and hiding are not possible:

- With your phone ringer in Silent Mode, dial 911 to alert police to the active shooter's location.
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

For more resources, visit: police.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego
POLICE DEPARTMENT

What to Expect from Law Enforcement

ARRIVAL

The first officers to arrive on the scene will not stop to help injured people. Rescue teams that include officers and emergency medical personnel will follow the initial officers and will treat and remove any injured people. They may also call upon you, if you are able, to help remove wounded individuals from the premises.

PURPOSE

Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will go directly to the area where the last shots were heard. Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4).

Officers may:

- Wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets and other tactical equipment.
- Be armed with guns
- Use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- Shout commands
- Push individuals to the ground for their safety

YOUR RESPONSE

When law enforcement arrives:

- Try to remain calm.
- Follow officers' instructions.
- Do not carry anything in your hands, including bags, jackets, books, etc.
- Keep hands visible at all times; raise your hands and spread your fingers.
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers, such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or directions for evacuating; proceed in the direction where officers are entering the premises.

Provide Information

When you are in a safe place, provide the following information to law enforcement or the 911 operator:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons the shooter(s) held
- Number of potential victims at the location

Law enforcement authorities will likely hold you in a safe location or assembly point until they have the situation under control. All witnesses will be identified and questioned. Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so. Contact family after you are safe and have spoken with law enforcement.

References

Active Shooter: How to Respond. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, October 2008.

Safety Guidelines for Armed Subjects, Active Shooter Situations, Indiana University Police Department, April 2007.

Safety Tips & Guidelines Regarding Potential "Active Shooter" Incidents Occurring on Campus, University of California Police.

Shots Fired, When Lightning Strikes (video), Center for Personal Protection and Safety, 2016.

How to Plan for Workplace Emergencies and Evacuations, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health and Safety Administration, OSHA 3088, 2001.

For more resources, visit: police.ucsd.edu