

ACTIVE SHOOTER FACTS

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.
DC 37 recognizes the importance of preparing for such incidents.

Indoor Active Shooter Protocols

In the event of an active shooter situation indoors, the primary goal is to escape if possible, find a safe place to hide, or, if absolutely necessary, to fight back. The "Run, Hide, Fight" protocol provides a framework for these actions:

RUN (Evacuate)

- **Get out if you can:** If there's a clear and safe escape path, evacuate the area immediately, leaving belongings behind.
- **Help others:** If possible, help others escape as well, but don't put yourself at greater risk.
- **Warn others:** If you can safely do so, warn others to stay away from the area.

HIDE (Secure in place)

- **Find a safe location:** If evacuation is not possible, find a secure place to hide, out of the shooter's view.
- **Lock and barricade:** Lock doors, barricade them with furniture, and turn off all lights.
- **Be silent:** Silence cell phones and other devices and remain quiet.
- **Spread out:** If hiding with others, spread out to make it more difficult for the shooter.
- **Stay hidden:** Remain hidden until law enforcement gives the all-clear.

FIGHT (As a last resort)

- **Commit to action:** If the shooter enters your hiding place and you are in immediate danger, commit to fighting back.
- **Act aggressively:** Use any available items as weapons, such as fire extinguishers, chairs, or anything else that can be used to cause injury.
- **Fight as a team:** If others are present, work together to overwhelm the shooter.

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Outdoor Active Shooter Protocols

Evacuate:

- ◇ Move away from the shooter as quickly as possible.
- ◇ Use natural cover such as trees, walls, vehicles, or terrain features to shield yourself.
- ◇ Avoid open areas and head toward a safe location or building.
- ◇ Do not stop to retrieve belongings or assist wounded individuals.

Hide Out:

- ◇ If evacuation is not possible, find a concealed area out of the shooter's view, such as behind large objects or terrain features.
- ◇ Stay low and avoid drawing attention to yourself.
- ◇ Silence your phone and remain quiet.

Take Action:

- ◇ As a last resort, if confronted directly and escape is impossible, attempt to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter.
- ◇ Use nearby objects as weapons or distractions, act aggressively, and commit to your actions.

Call 911:

- ◇ When safe, dial 9-1-1 and provide detailed information about the shooter's location, description, weapons, and any victims.

For more information, scan the QR code for DHS Active Shooter: How to Respond or visit www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf



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OSHA and PESH acknowledge the importance of preparing workers for active shooter incidents through training and drills. This training often utilizes the “**Run, Hide, Fight**” protocol, which advises individuals to:

- ◇ **Run:** If a safe escape route is available, evacuate the area immediately.
- ◇ **Hide:** If evacuation isn’t possible, find a secure location, lock/barricade doors, silence phones, and remain quiet.
- ◇ **Fight:** As a last resort, when life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter through aggressive action.

Emergency Action Plans (EAPs): Employers should develop and implement EAPs that include procedures for active shooter incidents. These plans should:

- ◇ Include a method for alerting employees about the incident.
- ◇ Outline evacuation routes and shelter locations.
- ◇ Provide contact information for emergency responders and other relevant personnel.