



Active Shooter

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Often, they have no regard for their own safety or capture. Active shooters pose an immediate risk of death or serious injury to anyone in the vicinity. They are often on the move and will accept random victims of opportunity while searching for intended victims or until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention. Common motives include anger, revenge, ideology, and untreated mental illness. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.

Responding Marine Corps Security Force and Law Enforcement personnel will act swiftly with a primary duty to protect innocent life by focusing their efforts on finding and neutralizing the active shooter(s). However, because most incidents last only 10 to 15 minutes, individuals at the scene must be prepared to deal with the situation until law enforcement personnel arrive.

How to Prepare

1 Stay informed

- ALL Marines (active duty and Reserve), civil service, and contractor personnel with a NIPR computer account—verify and update official contact information populated in the **Marine Corps Enterprise Mass Notification System (eMNS)** by information found in the Global Address List (GAL), and self-register all cell phones, home phone, email addresses, etc. in eMNS. Registration of personal information enhances Marine Corps Installations' ability to rapidly provide emergency information and changes to the base's operating status during non-working hours and wherever you are.
- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Ask your employer to explain the emergency action plan for your building.
- Understand the plans for individuals with special needs and/or disabilities.

2 Recognize signs of potential violence in those around you:

- Increased use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Unexplained increase in absences or tardiness
- Depression, withdrawal, paranoia, talk of revenge
- Increased severe mood swings and noticeably unstable, emotional responses
- Increased talk of problems at home
- Increased unsolicited comments about violence, firearms, or other dangerous weapons or violent crimes

Set your own course through any hazard: stay informed, make a plan, build a kit. Live Ready Marine Corps.



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3 Take violent acts or threats of violence seriously.

- Report violent acts or threats of violence at www.USMCEagleEyes.org and to your chain(s) of command, Military Police, Provost Marshals Office, Force Protection authorities, counterintelligence authorities, medical/mental health care professionals, or local law enforcement personnel, as appropriate. (The chances for prevention improve with increased awareness of potential warning signs and rapid response to a problem. Friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and supervisors are typically the most likely to recognize potential threat indicators.)

4 Make a plan

- Make note of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Look for the two nearest exits in any place you visit, and have an escape path and plan in mind.
- Make a plan with your family, and ensure everyone knows what they would do, if confronted with an active shooter.

What to Do

- **Run and escape**, if possible.
 - » If safe to do so, use an accessible escape path.
 - » Help others escape, if possible, but evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
 - » Leave your belongings behind.
 - » Warn and prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
 - » Keep your hands visible.
- **Hide**, if escape is not possible.
 - » If you are in an office, stay there and lock and barricade the door.
 - » If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
 - » Close, cover, and move away from windows.
 - » Your hiding place should be out of the shooter's view and provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
 - » Remain quiet with all sources of noise silenced.
- **Fight** as an absolute last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger. DO NOT seek out the shooter.
 - » Attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.
 - » Act aggressively and be prepared to cause severe or lethal injury to the shooter.
 - » Throw items and improvise weapons.
 - » Yell.
 - » Commit to your actions.
- **Call 9-1-1** when it is safe to do so and provide the following information to law enforcement officers or 911 operators:
 - » Location of the active shooter
 - » Number of shooters, if more than one
 - » Physical description of the shooter(s)
 - » Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
 - » Number of potential victims at the location



Active Shooter

What to Expect When Law Enforcement Arrives

- Law enforcement's immediate focus is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible.
- Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.
- The first officers to arrive at the scene will not stop to help injured persons because their first priority is life safety. They will need to secure the scene first.
- Rescue teams composed of other officers and emergency medical personnel will follow the first officers into secured areas to treat and remove the injured.
- Officers arriving on scene may be coming from many different duty assignments and agencies, and additional officers may arrive in teams.
- Officers will likely be in various types of uniforms, external bullet proof vests, Kevlar helmets and other tactical equipment, and even in street clothes. Do not be surprised by the variances in appearance; they are trained to work together.
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, and/or handguns and may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation.
- Officers will shout commands and may push individuals to the ground for their safety.
- Expect that officers will treat the entire area as a crime scene and everyone with suspicion.
- Law enforcement will establish secure assembly points and will question all witnesses.
- Usually, officers will not allow anyone to leave designated assembly points until the situation is under control and all witnesses have been identified and debriefed. Expect to remain in the secure area until authorities release you.

What to Do After Reaching a Safe Location or Assembly Point

- Identify yourself as a witness and relay any medical needs you may have.
- Answer any questions law enforcement authorities may have.
- Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.
- Seek medical care and counseling if needed.

What to Do When Law Enforcement Arrives

- Remain calm and follow instructions.
- Do not attempt to assist unless specifically asked to do so by law enforcement personnel.
- Slowly put down any items in your hands (e.g., bags, jackets).
- Raise hands and spread fingers.
- Keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid quick movements toward officers, such as holding on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming, or yelling.
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, as they will be focused on finding and incapacitating the shooter to prevent further loss of life. Not adhering to officers' instructions puts everyone in danger.

Where to Find More Information

Department of Homeland Security—

- http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf
- http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_pocket_card.pdf
- <http://www.dhs.gov/video/options-consideration-active-shooter-training-video>

FEMA—<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is907.asp>