

Responding to Active Shooters

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In many cases, active shooters use firearms, and there is no method to their selection of victims.

Because active shooter incidents are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives, you must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation. Remember: Most active shooters act alone. They do not take hostages or negotiate. They try to avoid police and typically are no match for armed confrontation.

KEY POINTS

- Recognize behaviors that warn of violence.
- Evacuate, but only if it is safe to do so.
- If unable to run, stay in place until authorities give the all clear.
- As a last resort, play dead or try to take the active shooter down. When the shooter is close to you and you are unable to flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate the shooter.

IF YOU ARE IN A DIFFERENT AREA THAN THE ACTIVE SHOOTER

If you are absolutely certain you can evacuate to safety without encountering the shooter, do so quickly and quietly.

Note, however, that you should never rely on the sound of gunfire to pinpoint the location of the shooter. Due to the way gunshots echo, it can be misleading and potentially endanger lives.

If you have doubts about safely evacuating, move every employee in the area to a designated safe room. Lock the doors or barricade them using whatever is available.

Notify the police. Give them all the relevant information you have.

Keep occupants calm and quiet. Try to give the sense that no one is inside the room.

Do not rescue an injured person if it means endangering others.

Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons.

Wait for law enforcement to arrive. Do not leave your shelter area until given the "all clear."

IF YOU ARE IN THE SAME AREA AS THE SHOOTER

Attempt to keep desks or other objects between you to block the shooter's view.

Do not run in a straight line.

If you are unable to flee, playing dead or fighting back may be the last option.

RECOGNIZE THE WARNING SIGNS. CONTACT HR IF SOMEONE DISPLAYS THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIOR

Threatens to harm or talks about killing their boss or other employees.

Possesses or draws artwork that depicts graphic images of death or violence.

Possesses firearms or edged weapons or has a preoccupation with them.

Starts fights or assaults others, including family members.

Loses temper and self-control easily and/or converts frustration into physical violence.

Makes jokes or offensive comments about violent acts.

For further information on maintaining a culture of preparedness, please visit our website. Contact one of our business resilience experts at contactus@agilityrecovery.com for more information on this or any other threat.

With an end-to-end solution, such as Agility Recovery, businesses can recover **4 times faster** than with no BCM solution.