



# Active Shooter Preparedness

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms. An active shooter in your workplace may be a current or former employee or acquaintance of a former employee. Active Shooter situations are unpredictable and victims are selected at random. These situations evolve quickly and are often over within 10 to 15 minutes before law enforcement arrives on scene. As a result, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers the following information regarding best practices for coping with an active shooter situation:

## **Coping:**

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
- Attempt to take the active shooter down as a last resort.
- Call 911 when it is safe to do so.

## **Response to an Active Shooter:**

### **1. Evacuate**

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.

### **2. Hide Out**

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock doors.
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager.

### **3. Take Action**

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

For more information on this topic, please contact Alliant Risk Control Consulting at (949) 260-5042 or [riskcontrol@alliant.com](mailto:riskcontrol@alliant.com)

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### **Response When Law Enforcement Arrives:**

- Remain Calm and follow instructions.
- Put down any items in your hands.
- Raise hands, spread fingers and keep hands visible at all times.
- Avoid quick movements towards 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.

### **Information to Provide to Law Enforcement or 911 Operator:**

- Location of active shooter.
- Number of shooters and physical description.
- Number and type of weapons held by shooters.
- Number of potential victims at the location.

### **Training for an Active Shooter Situation:**

- Create and train staff on Emergency Action Plans.
- Preferred method of reporting emergencies.
- Evacuation policy and procedure.
- Information regarding local area hospitals.
- Know the sounds of emergency notification systems.
- Know how to recognize the sound of gunshots.
- Ensure the facility has at least two evacuation routes.
- Encourage law enforcement and first responders to train for an active shooter scenario at your location.
- Recognize signs of potential workplace violence.

For additional resources on Active Shooter, please visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website:

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

*This Alliant Risk Control Consulting fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.*

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