

# **SPECIAL REPORT:** **5 STEPS TO SURVIVING** **AN** **ACTIVE SHOOTER**



**56.3%**  
of active shooter  
events end before  
police arrive

**14 MINUTES**  
is the national  
average for police  
to respond

**YOUR GUIDE  
TO READINESS**



**TAKE ACTION! CHOOSE TO SURVIVE!**

- Understand the Profile of an Active Shooter
- Active Shooter Statistics
- 5 Steps to Survival
- Tips to Interact with the Police
- Deadly Mistakes to Avoid

# PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

At any level, an active shooter is one bad guy with a gun. Whether he is shooting at hundreds of people, or just at you, nobody has more control over your survival than you do.

It can happen ANYWHERE at ANYTIME, so preparation and a defensive mindset are keys to survival!  
*YOU must be vigilant and prepared!*

There is no ONE exact profile of an active shooter but they do share common characteristics.

- Desire to end human life, or inflict extreme harm on an individual or a group of people
- Look for easy targets and opportunities
- Choose vulnerable groups and locations like “unarmed,” non-carry sites
- Most shooters have had NO previous arrests for violent attacks
- Majority have had a history of social isolation
- Some interaction with mental health professionals

No matter what laws or restrictions are in place, the shooter will always find access to weapons, magazines, and ammo to carry out their goal.

## MOTIVATION

Reasons vary but there are some consistencies:

- Feel wronged, want to make it right
- Have severe mental illness
- Desire to make a name for themselves

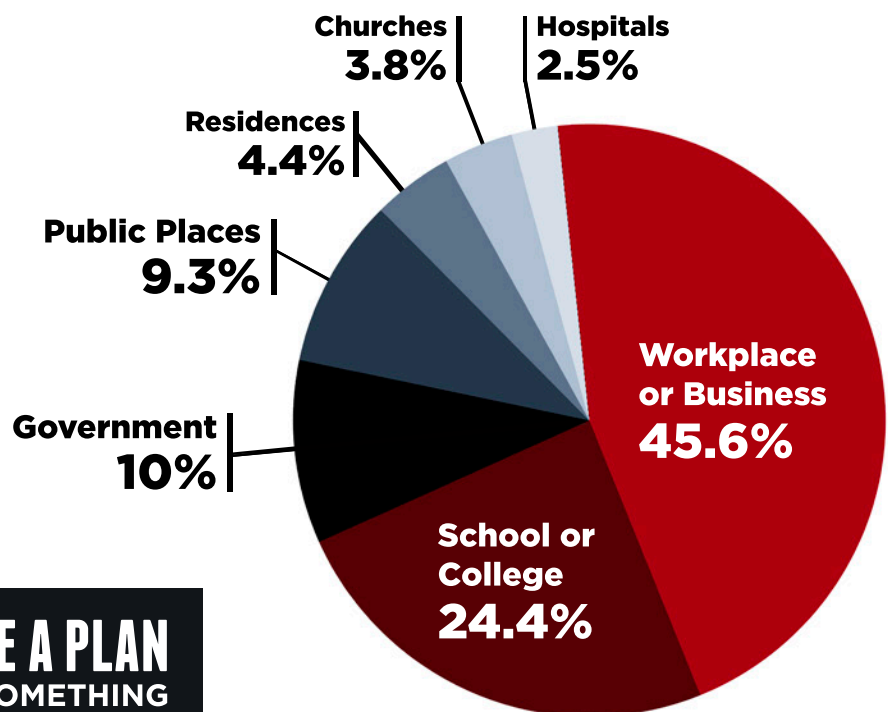
## WARNING SIGNS

If you are around a person that:

- Starts talking about what they would like to do
- Begins taking action
- Is making a plan
- Is making lists
- Begins buying weapons, ammo

*Pay attention and report it!*

## TYPICAL LOCATIONS

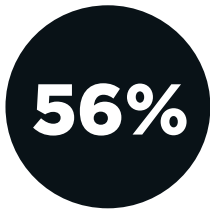


**ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN**  
**YOU MUST DO SOMETHING**

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Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

An Active Shooter incident involves a person or persons whose single-minded purpose is to hurt or kill. They choose confined and populated areas in order to do the most harm. In most cases, active shooters utilize firearms and there are no patterns or methods to the selection of victims. The situations are always erratic, progress quickly, and are often over within 15 minutes.



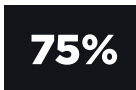
**Of events are over before police arrive**



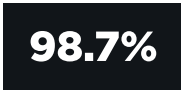
**National average for law enforcement to arrive on scene**



**Typical duration of an active shooter situation**



**Of active shooters are male**



**Act alone**

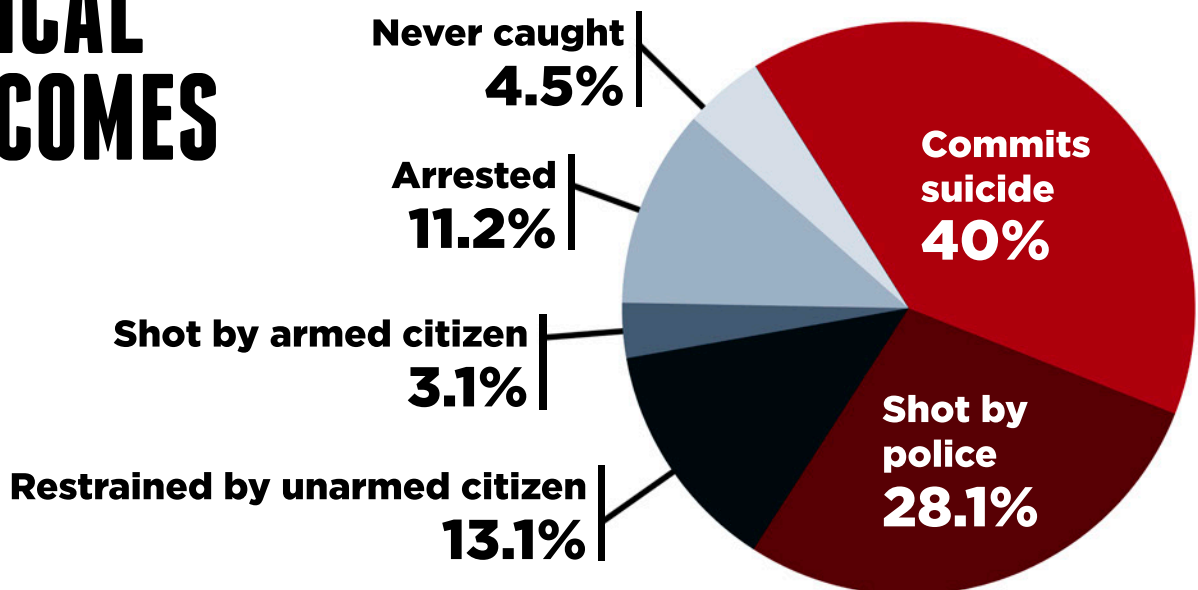


**Active shooter situations occur per year on average**



**Mass casualty incidents between 2000 - 2013 with 486 deceased and 557 injured**

## TYPICAL OUTCOMES



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation



Ask yourself, have you done everything you can to prepare for survival? In today's world, we can no longer go through life without thinking about the possibility. You have to be prepared to fight for your life.

You can protect yourself even if you are unarmed by developing a defensive mindset.

## STEP 1: RECOGNIZE AND REACT

Key elements of survival are awareness, knowledge, evasion and preparation.

**BE AWARE** of your surroundings, others around you, uncommon sounds and behaviors, and **BE PREPARED** to react. Always report suspicious behavior.

When you first enter a location, identify the exits, restrooms, windows, and stairwells. Make a quick assessment, develop a plan in your mind, and rehearse it. Ask yourself "What would I do" questions and devise a plan.

Doing your thinking during a stressful event takes away time to effectively react to the threat. Stress causes sweating, increased heart rate, dilated pupils, and the inability to think clearly. Having a plan will help you to react immediately when seconds count.

If you think you hear unusual sounds, move toward an exit so you can quickly leave. Always assume it is what you think it is. Do not wait.

*"We are not preparing for the world we live in—we are preparing for the world we find ourselves in."*

- Michael Mabee

*"Because you never know when the day before...is the day before. Prepare for tomorrow."*

- Bobby Akart



**Listen to your intuition. Follow your gut reaction. Act FAST!**

## **STEP 2: RUN AND ESCAPE**

At the first feeling of danger, react! At the first sign or sound of an active shooter, run **AWAY** from the sound of gunfire. You will hear loud popping noises. The louder the noises, the closer the shooter is to you.

Do not hesitate, move quickly to the nearest exit **AWAY** from the shooter or noises.

Try to get as many people as you can to evacuate with you, but do not let others slow you down with indecision or fear. If someone doesn't evacuate, do **NOT** wait for them, leave!

Leave all personal belongings behind and just run. Forget purses, backpacks, briefcases, and jackets. If you have a gun, grab it quickly. Do not go back for anything!

Remain low or crawl, if necessary.

Continue to move toward exits, locate the closest exit door, stairwell, elevator, or window. Use caution as you enter open areas.

Keep an eye out for approaching Law Enforcement and keep your hands open and above your head with fingers spread out when approaching police.

Once in a safe area, use your phone to call 911. *See page 7 for how to handle interactions with police.*





**When running or escaping are not an option:**

## **STEP 3: HIDE**

If you are in an area where you cannot evacuate safely, hide the best you can and fortify your position, always thinking of a way out.

Examine the room for possible exits or available weapons, even alternative ones (e.g., chairs, fire extinguishers, lamps, etc.) Think about what to do to defend yourself if you are found.

Coordinate a quick plan if others are in the room with you.

Hide out of the shooter's view.

Turn off all lights.

Lock all entry points; doors, windows, patios, etc.

Close blinds and window coverings. Cover any glass or windows to obstruct the view inside.

Barricade the entry points with large, heavy objects such as desks, refrigerators, and sofas. If people are present, ask for help to move items.

Stay low and hide behind heavy or dense objects, but think about what you can do if discovered, and act quickly.

Stay quiet and put your phone on **SILENT, NOT VIBRATE**.

Call 911, if safe to do so.





## When hiding is not an option:

# STEP 4: FIGHT

### Use as a **LAST RESORT** only to defend your life

If you have not been able to evacuate, after you hide and barricade you need to begin looking for ways to defend yourself and develop a plan.

Look for edged weapons, blunt objects, fire extinguishers, and, of course, firearms. Even if you have a firearm, do **NOT** go out and attempt to confront or find the shooter! Stay in your location and defend the people in your group.

Plan your attack with others, if possible. Make assignments if there is time. Be ready to throw objects like books, backpacks, staplers, coffee mugs, *etc.* at the shooter to disorient and possibly injure them or to create a diversion.

If the shooter enters the room you are in, everyone needs to attack together. Your attack should be **VIOLENT** and **SWIFT**! Don't stop once you start! Remember—survival is key. If you get your hand on a gun, watch where you shoot, control the barrel of the gun, and face it toward the ground! One person should attack the gun or gun arm and put all their weight on it. Keep the shooter from pointing the gun at anything other than the floor. Stand on the weapon once it is away from the shooter. Everyone else attack the shooter and take all weapons from him, as he may have multiple guns or knives.

Be prepared that this is going to be terrifying and chaotic. It will be loud. The gun **WILL** fire! Count on it! People in your group **WILL** be injured.

*"There is no safety for honest men except by believing all possible evil of evil men."*

- Edmund Burkem  
Reflections on the Revolution in France



**Trust your instincts – Take action – Survival is **YOUR** responsibility**

# STEP 5: SURVIVE

Survive for you, your family, your loved ones, and others.

Prevent others from walking into the danger zone.

Prepare a plan, practice it in your mind, with co-workers, and talk with security.

Even if the shooter is neutralized, you will likely have to remain in place for some time. Keep calm, help others remain calm, and care for the wounded as much as possible.

## AVOID COMMON MISTAKES

- Putting yourself in a “corner” with no options to move
- Choosing interior seats or the middle of crowds with no means to easily escape
- Making yourself stand out
- Selecting locations with obstacles blocking your exit route
- Do not try to take video or pictures
- Do not freeze in place—keep moving and stay calm
- Avoid contact with items the shooter leaves behind—there could be evidence, bombs, more weapons, ammo, *etc.*

## ON 911 CALL

Provide location and address.

Give quick details of the situation.

Share a description of the shooter.

State how many shooters are present, if possible.

State how many possible injuries.

## WHEN POLICE ARRIVE

Keep in mind, to the police, everyone can be a suspect.

Due to the nature of the call, every agency around will respond. You will see many different uniforms. Law enforcement will likely be wearing tactical gear with heavy vests and rifles.

Stay calm, do not raise your voice, point, or scream.

Stay still and avoid quick movements—especially toward officers.

Let them know you are a victim.

Cooperate fully.

Keep your hands above your head with fingers open, and drop anything in your hands such as bags or jackets.

**COMPLY WITH ALL COMMANDS IMMEDIATELY!**



# EDUCATION IS YOUR NUMBER ONE DEFENSE



Come join us for an active shooter seminar, where you can learn more about how to protect yourself and have all of your questions answered.

Receive real-life knowledge and guidance from law enforcement professionals trained to handle these life-threatening situations. Then, learn from experienced U.S. Law Shield Independent Firearms Program Attorneys as they explain how to navigate the legal aftermath of an incident.

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AND

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