

NYPD Active Shooter Recommendations Fire Life Safety Training

What is an Active Shooter?

An active shooter is an individual (s) actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In past cases, active shooters have used firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve very quickly. Upon notification, it may take law enforcement 3 to 5 minutes to arrive on scene. It may take additional time for law enforcement to find the active shooter at the location. Prior to law enforcement's arrival, FLS Staff and Building Occupants often have to take actions to protect themselves. **Avoid, Barricade and Confront (ABC)** are recommended survival techniques to protect oneself, based on the threat present and they may not have to be followed in any specific order. Individual decisions should be made based on the active shooter's location(s).

Avoid (Run/Evacuate)

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises:

- Have an escape plan and route in mind.
- Visualize the entire escape route before beginning to move, and avoid using elevators or escalators.
- If possible, use the nearest exit stairway to evacuate.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Leave your belongings behind. **DO NOT** carry any packages or items that could be confused as a weapon or explosive device.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Call 911 when it is safe to do so. Provide the pertinent information (discussed in detail below).

Barricade (Hide)

If it is **Not Possible** to evacuate, find a place to barricade / hide yourself where the active shooter is **Least** likely to find you:

- Hiding place should be out of the active shooter's view. Soft wall cubicles and desks may conceal but provide no substantial ballistic protection.
- Hiding place should be an area with **BOTH** visual concealment and ballistic cover that can provide protection if shots are fired in your direction.
- Hide behind large items (i.e., file cabinets, copy machines, vending machines) something of substantial thickness and weight that will stop a bullet.
- If possible, lock the door and barricade the entrance with heavy bulky items such as furniture, copy machines, desks, etc.
- An ideal hiding place should not trap or restrict your options for movement.
- Silence, not vibrate, your cell phone and/or any other electronic devices.
- Turn off lights and any sources of noise (i.e., radios, televisions).
- Remain quiet.

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Confront (Fight/Take Action)

If it is **Not Possible** to avoid or barricade, as a **LAST RESORT**, and **ONLY** when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter:

- Collaborate and act as a group, if possible.
- Act aggressively.
- Throw items and improvised weapons.
- Yell.
- Be committed to your actions.

Do Not Activate Manual Pull Station

- The manual pull station should only be activated during fire emergency or smoke condition.
- When the manual pull station is activated, it may lure occupants out and into the shooter's line of fire and only get a Fire Department response, it will **NOT** notify the police.
- It also misleads the building Fire Life Safety Team in thinking there is a fire emergency in the building and not an active shooter incident.

Call 911

As soon as it is safe to do so and provide the following information to 911 operator, if known:

- Building address
- Location of the active shooter or his/her last known location
- Number of shooters. (If more than one)
- Physical description of shooter(s).
- Name/identity of the shooter(s) (e.g. employee).
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s).
- Number of potential victims at the location.
- If explosions were heard.
- After calling 911, they have to also notify FLS Director
- If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

When Police Arrive On Scene:

- **Do Not** attempt to run towards or grab onto police officers.
- Keep your hands up, open, and above your head, fingers spread apart, and most importantly, **EMPTY**.
- Resist the urge to turn quickly or make any sudden movements.
- Do not stop responding police to ask officers for help or directions on evacuation. Proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises.
- Remain calm and follow the instructions of the police

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Additional Data: The first police officers to arrive to the scene may not stop to help injured persons. Expect teams comprised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to follow the initial responding officers. These teams will treat and remove any injured persons from the areas that have been cleared by the first responding police officers. They may also call upon able-bodied occupants to assist in removing the wounded from the premises. **A training video on Active Shooter by the LA County Sheriff's Office can be found at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFQ-oxhdFjE>**