

ACTIVE THREAT SITUATIONS>>>

Active threat attacks are **dynamic incidents** that vary greatly.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defines an **active threat** as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.”

Bad actors (persons with malicious intent) often look for **soft targets** like malls, places of worship, or schools due to relatively low security and high availability to victims.

BE INFORMED>>>

- Sign up for an active threat training.
- If you see something, say something to someone in authority, right away.
- Register to receive emergency alerts on both your work and personal contact information.
- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.

MAKE A PLAN>>>

- Have a plan in place for your congregation, to ensure everyone knows what to do if confronted with an active threat.
- No matter where you are, always have an escape plan in mind; look for the two nearest exits and for places to hide
- Have a plan in place for protecting individuals with disabilities.

COMMUNITY SECURITY INITIATIVE SERVICES>>>

CONDUCT security assessments of facilities and present recommendations regarding physical improvements and policy considerations.

AID in the creation of a security committee.

ADMINISTER an emergency alert system to share community-wide security threat notifications with organizational leadership.

SPONSOR and provide education and training on security-related topics.

CONSULT and assist with the coordination of security for major events.

PROVIDE guidance on applying for and administering federal and state security grants.



Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER METROWEST NJ

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BE PREPARED

A How-to Guide

Protecting Yourself and
Your Loved Ones in
Active Threat Situations



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HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ACTIVE THREAT>>>

1

RUN (Avoid)



If there is an accessible escape path, try to evacuate the premises.

- Abandon personal belongings and avoid elevators, if possible.
- If you are in a high-rise building and the attacker is below, ascend as many floors as possible. Once a safe area is reached, secure the location and move away from the entranceway to a more secure location. If the attacker is above you, move down and out of the building.
- If evacuating via stairwell, stay pressed to the wall to make room for responding officers.

2

HIDE (Barricade)



If evacuation is impossible, hide where the attacker is less likely to find you, preferably inside a secure room.

- If it is possible to do so safely, move to a central and secure area of the building.
- Locate an area that provides protection from bullets (copy machines, file cabinets), not just visual concealment. Cover stops/slow bullets, concealment does not.
- Block the door with large, heavy objects to make entry as difficult as possible (desks, tables, filing cabinets, furniture, books, etc.).
- Remain quiet and silence your phone.

3

FIGHT (Confront)



As a last resort, only if your life is in imminent danger, try to disrupt or incapacitate the active attacker.

- If you are with other people work as a team to overcome the attacker.
- Throw items at the attacker. Improvise, using readily available items such as scissors, fire extinguishers, etc.
- Remember, the attacker will most likely continue to shoot victims unless they are stopped.

HAVE A MEANS TO NOTIFY POLICE>>>

Remember to provide the following information as clearly, thoroughly, and calmly as possible:

- Your name
- Location of the incident – the address
- Your location within the building
- Number of attackers, location last seen, and the direction headed
- Physical description of attacker (sex, race, clothing, type of weapons)
- Number and location of victims and brief description of injuries
- Any explosions in addition to gunshots
- Any suspicious devices, description, and location

WHEN POLICE ARRIVE>>>

Law enforcement's purpose is to stop the attacker as quickly as possible. Officers usually proceed directly to the area in which shots were last heard:

- Remain calm and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers
- Avoid pointing, screaming, and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

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Remember that each situation is unique, but an attacker's actions are usually similar. **RUN, HIDE, FIGHT** are response options that should be adapted to the circumstances. Most importantly, choose an action and **COMMIT TO IT!**