

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 accessibility 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 with 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.

Securing our Greater MetroWest NJ Community

Through the Gloria and Jesse Weissberg Community Security Initiative, we are increasing security across our Greater MetroWest Jewish community—including Federation, our partner agencies, day schools, synagogues, early childhood centers, and other Jewish institutions.

For more information, contact:

Thomas “Chip” Michaels

Chief Security Officer

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

tmichaels@jfedgmw.org

(973) 929-3162



Jewish Federation
of Greater MetroWest NJ

jfedgmw.org/security     [jfedgmw](https://www.facebook.com/jfedgmw)

BE PREPARED

A How-to Guide

Protecting Yourself and
Your Community in
Active Threat Situations



Jewish Federation
of Greater MetroWest NJ

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ACTIVE THREAT>>>



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

- Abandon personal belongings and, if possible, avoid elevators.
- 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.



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 (i.e., copy machines, file cabinets), not just visual concealment. Taking cover stops/slows 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.



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.

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!**

HAVE A WAY TO NOTIFY POLICE>>>

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

- Your name
- Location of the incident—the physical address
- Your location within the building
- Number of attackers, location last seen, and the direction headed
- Physical description of attacker (gender, race, clothing, type of weapons, etc.)
- 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 the 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