



Active Shooter Survival & Response

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Know Your Enemy: Understanding Today's Active Shooter

Politics, race, and "just plain crazy" all seem to be motivations for active shooters. There are different types that defy categorization.

- We still don't have a definitive profile of a "typical" active shooter. They vary widely.
- It's hard to know what goes through the mind of an active shooter before the fact. What we can do is focus on how to respond.
- Without a profile, it's harder to avoid an active shooting because there's no consistent set of circumstances or personality traits to look out for.
- When people are afraid to go out in public, that represents success for a domestic terrorist and active shooter.

Upping Your Mental Game

Denial can cause you to freeze. Believing it "can't happen to you" can seriously lower your ability to survive a shooting.

- First, acknowledge that an active shooting COULD affect you.
- Don't EVER buy into the idea that "things like that don't happen around here."
- Have a general plan. Know how to exit, how to barricade your position, and how to fight back to save your life (and others' lives).
- You must have the mentality that you will do whatever it takes to survive.
- Breathing exercises that can control stress may help.
- Keep it simple and HAVE A PLAN.
- Get TRAINING ahead of time if you can. This will help you make the mental shift.

Legal Ramifications

It STINKS that we have to consider this, but...

- You are legally responsible for your response to an active shooting.
- If someone is killing other people, you have the right to kill them to save lives. If you injure someone else in the process, however, you are liable criminally and civilly. That includes shooting at an active shooter, missing, and hitting an innocent person.
- If someone misuses a weapon you are staging for active shooter response, you are liable for THAT, too.

Unconventional Responses

We've all heard the typical responses, but there are some unusual ways to respond, too.

- Playing dead and hiding under dead bodies could work.
- Ambush at doorways and corners.
- Flank the shooter or come up behind him. NEVER go straight on because you'll make it very easy for him to shoot you.
- Understand what's BEHIND your target if you're shooting at a bad guy.
- If you're alive and able to assist the wounded, you can really help.

The Aftermath Of An Active Shooting

Help first responders keep you alive.

- Keep your weapon HOLSTERED. Don't go running around looking for the active shooter with your gun out or you'll get shot.
- When police show up, they want to see your empty hands.

Prepare. Train. Survive.