

10 Steps to Address the Active Shooter Threat

Active shooter incidents occur every day throughout the country. No matter the industry, geography, size or scale of your business, it is vital that all organizations prepare for a potential incident. 70% of active shooter events conclude by the time police arrive.¹ To preserve life and safety, it is critical your security program can bridge the gap between the initiation of an event and the arrival of first responders. MSA Security®, An Allied Universal® Company, provides the following recommendations to assist organizations of every size in protecting their people, property and assets.

1 **Emergency Management Plan**

Develop an Emergency Management Plan using industry standards and resources, such as the ASIS Workplace Violence and Active Assailant Prevention, Intervention, and Response standard, as well as OSHA's Enforcement Procedures and Scheduling for Occupational Exposure to Workplace Violence.

2 **Comprehensive Risk and Vulnerability Assessment**

Schedule a comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessment to identify areas of exposure within your security program and develop a roadmap for improvements. Assessments should review everything from access control to staffing.

3 **Penetration Testing**

Conduct penetration testing to audit the effectiveness of your security program. Confirm weapons cannot be secreted into restricted areas of your facility or venue. Update your security infrastructure to address any vulnerabilities identified in physical infrastructure, staffing, training or other areas of your security program.

4 **Background Screening**

Due diligence, such as screening and background checks for new hires and vetting of potential partnerships and third-party relationships, will identify red flags.

5 **Red Flags and Warning Signs**

Identify early warning signs and preoperational surveillance. For 56% of active shooters studied, their first concerning behavior was noticed more than two years prior to the attack.² Monitor and address any harassment, threats or suspicious behaviors. Establish a procedure for employees to confidentially report warning or troubling behavior.

¹ U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

² Silver, J., Simons, A., & Craun, S. (2018). *A Study of the Pre Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States Between 2000 2013*. Federal Bureau of Investigation



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6 Employee Training

Conduct employee training and tabletop exercises. Ensure everyone in the organization is familiar with the plan and trained in proper response protocols. Consistent and well-informed employee training should provide education on common safety strategies, such as “run, hide, fight”.

7 Security Access Systems

Utilize comprehensive physical building security, intrusion detection systems and video camera monitoring as a baseline level of defense to prevent unauthorized access to your facility or venue.

8 Security Personnel

Deploy security staff to monitor and control building access. Consider armed and unarmed layers of staffing with thorough training at both levels, with particular focus on behavior pattern recognition and active shooter response. Both covert and overt security personnel can also be deployed in different aspects of your staffing model.

9 Canine Detection Teams

Evaluate firearms and explosive detection canine teams. With 300 million olfactory receptors in their nose, properly trained canines are an effective tool for detecting gunpowder, gun cleaning solvents and homemade explosives.

10 Intelligence

Improve decision making by tapping into near-real-time intelligence to identify current and emerging threats made against your people, business or proximate locations.

MAY 25, 2022

ABC NEWS

AT LEAST 19 CHILDREN, 2 TEACHERS DEAD AFTER SHOOTING AT TEXAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MAY 19, 2022

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BUFFALO MASSACRE SUSPECT APPEARS IN COURT AND WILL BE HELD WITHOUT BAIL

MAY 15, 2022

NBC LOS ANGELES

LAGUNA WOODS CHURCH SHOOTING LEAVES 1 DEAD, 5 HURT



From 2000–2020, **373** active shooter incidents occurred resulting in **3,015** casualties.

Of the **40** active shooter incidents in 2020, more than half (**24**) occurred in areas of commerce and **19** in business environments open to the public.

U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation

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