



Active Shooter Response Executive Summary – Faith Based Organizations

Statistics

The FBI defines an active shooter as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. The active aspect of the definition inherently implies that both law enforcement personnel and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the event based upon their responses to the situation.

In 2014 the FBI started researching active shooter incidents and publishing reports on their findings. The most recent report identified 333 active shooter incidents occurring in the United States over the past 20 years from 2000-2019.

In that report they found it only 10 of the 333 incidents involved more than one shooter.

67 of the incidents ended when an armed citizen killed the shooter.

29 of the incidents that occurred between 2000 and 2017 ended when an unarmed citizen was able to overtake and restrain the shooter.

Numerous organizations including the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Department of Education, the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) agree that a one-option approach (i.e. lockdown) is not sufficient. Staff and Employees need to have multiple options at their disposal (Run, Hide, Fight, etc.).

8 Deadliest U.S. Mass Shootings

- Las Vegas Shooting - October 1, 2017, 58 killed, 527 wounded, 22k concertgoers, shooter committed suicide.
- Pulse Nightclub, Orlando FL - June 12, 2016, 49 killed, 58 wounded, Police killed shooter.
- Virginia Tech in Blacksburg VA - April 16, 2007, 33 killed 23, wounded, shooter committed suicide.
- Sandy Hook - Newtown CT - Dec. 14, 2012, 26 killed, 2 wounded, shooter committed suicide.
- Southerland Springs Church, Southerland Springs, TX - Nov. 5, 2017, 25 killed, 20 wounded, bystanders killed shooter.
- Luby's Cafeteria, Killeen TX - Oct. 16, 1991, 23 killed, 27 wounded, shooter committed suicide.
- Robb Elementary School - Uvalde TX – May 24, 2022, 19 killed, 17 wounded, Police killed shooter.

Plan of Action Needed

Faith based organizations must become pro-active, not reactive, in making staff and employees aware of key principles that will empower them to make life-saving decisions in the heat of the moment that will buy time and save lives.

Preventing an active shooter situation is impossible. There is no demographic or profile that will predict where the next situation might occur. However, when lightning strikes, congregants and staff must be able to respond with simple steps to keep themselves safe. It requires building a culture of people who have a mental awareness of their



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surroundings and clearly defined action steps. Properly training congregants and staff is a necessary component in empowering them to know what to do.

Common sense is not common knowledge. The body cannot go where the mind has never been. All we need to be able to do is buy time before first responders arrive to end the situation. How do you properly break a window? How do you barricade a door that swings into the hallway? Entirely possible and easy to do, but it simply requires training. Failure to train and plan is planning to fail.

We can't stop a lawsuit from arriving after an active situation occurs. However, by having a plan in place and making training available to congregants and staff, the risk associated with a lawsuit is mitigated.

This cutting-edge, violence-saturated world that we now live in has created problems and pains that we have never had to deal with in previous generations. We must respond with cutting-edge, dynamic solutions in order to mitigate our risk associated with these problems.

These principles are *life principles* that every person needs to know for the rest of their lives.

The following items have been specifically designed by our company to facilitate a culture shift for your organization as you seek to address these issues.

Learning Objectives:

- Experience just how effective one's actions can be in an active shooter event.
- Learn how to plan and implement survival techniques in the office without scaring the staff.
- Identify what actions saved the lives of victims in past shootings.
- Prepare mentally and physically for an active attack through scripting and practicing.
- Recognize the FBI's recommended principals for survival Run(Avoid), Hide(Deny), Fight(Defend).

Implementation

Training lasts approximately 60 to 90 minutes. It is vitally important that training be held as mandatory to ensure all employees gain the same awareness and understanding so that it is a unified effort if this nightmare situation should ever occur.

Additionally, new employee training, refresher courses, and our proactive curriculum are recommended.

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