

Run, Hide, Fight: What to Do and When to Do It

“Run,” “Hide” and “Fight” are the actions that both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommend in an active shooter situation. Each action is explained in further detail below.

Run

If possible, attempt to evacuate the premises. Be sure to:

- » Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- » Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- » Leave your belongings behind.
- » Help others escape, if possible.
- » Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- » Keep your hands visible when engaging with law enforcement.
- » Follow the instructions of any police officers.
- » Do not attempt to move wounded people.
- » Call 911 when you are safe.

Hide

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should:

- » Be out of view.
- » Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door).
- » Not trap you or restrict your options for movement.
- » Can prevent an active shooter from entering. (i.e., you should be able to lock the door).
- » Blockade the door with heavy furniture.

If the active shooter is nearby:

- » Lock the door.
- » Silence your cell phone and, in industries where used, your pager.
- » Turn off any source of noise (radios, televisions).
- » Hide behind large items (cabinets, desks).
- » Remain quiet.
- » If evacuation and hiding are not possible, remain calm.
- » Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter’s location.
 - If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen.

Fight

As a last resort, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- » Acting as aggressively as possible against them.
- » Throwing items and improvising weapons.
- » Yelling.
- » Committing to your actions.

