

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The FBI designated 28 shootings in 2019 as active shooter incidents. The 28 incidents resulted in 247 casualties, 97 people killed, and 150 people wounded, excluding the shooters.¹

No community appears immune from these potential incidents, therefore, it is important for every community to develop an Active Shooter Program.

The purpose of this guide is to provide emergency services personnel with the basic building blocks for developing an Active Shooter Program with their communities.

This guide highlights resources and planning considerations, which will enhance emergency services organizations' ability to develop or improve community planning and preparedness for active shooter incidents.

¹U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2019, (April 2020).

AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security definition

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places – Resource Guide

cisa.gov/publication/securing-soft-targets-and-crowded-places-resources



CISA Active Shooter Preparedness Website

cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness

CONTACT US

For more information, email the Emergency Services Sector Management Team at EmergencyServicesSector@cisa.dhs.gov



EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR ACTIVE SHOOTER GUIDE



WHEN CREATING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER PROGRAM

emergency services organizations should consider four essential steps:



STEP 1. AWARENESS

Emergency services personnel should maintain organizational awareness of the issue and where to find incident-related information and preparedness resources.

- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides products, tools, and resources to help prepare for and respond to active shooter incidents. [CISA.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](https://www.cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)
- Emergency services personnel can request access to the following Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) portals to view active shooter incident related information.
 - HSIN Emergency Services – email EmergencyServicesSector@cisa.dhs.gov to request access.
 - HSIN Intel – email hsin.intel.pmo@hq.dhs.gov to request access.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation has analytical reports, case studies, and statistical information regarding active shooter incidents. [FBI.gov/resources](https://www.fbi.gov/resources)



STEP 3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Effective partnerships between law enforcement and community stakeholders are essential to public safety. It is important for government agencies, community groups, nonprofits, businesses, and private citizens to accept public safety as a shared responsibility.

- Consider forming a Security Managers Group to discuss concerns and collaborate on solutions.
- Consider developing a guide for the public on “what to expect when first responders arrive.”
- For more information about active shooter workshops contact: ASWorkshop@hq.dhs.gov



STEP 2. TRAINING

Encourage community members to review no-cost training resources to improve local community active shooter planning and preparedness.

- FEMA IS-907: Active Shooter: What You Can Do – This course was developed to provide the public with guidance on how to prepare for and respond to active shooter situations. training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-907
- CISA Pathway to Violence – This video provides information regarding the behavior indicators that assailants often demonstrate before a violent act. The video also includes law enforcement expert interviews that discuss engagement strategies and recommended responses to someone potentially on a pathway to violence. [CISA.gov/pathway-violence-video](https://www.cisa.gov/pathway-violence-video)



STEP 4. EXERCISE COORDINATION

Exercises are a key component of preparedness that provide community stakeholders the opportunity to shape planning, assess and validate capabilities, and address areas for improvement.

- Each exercise package is scalable and includes template exercise objectives, scenarios, and discussion questions, as well as a collection of references and resources. For more information about exercises contact: CISA.Exercises@cisa.dhs.gov
- Assist community stakeholders with development of Emergency Action Plans. Emergency services personnel should integrate response planning with organizational Emergency Action Plans. [CISA.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide)



For more information, email the Emergency Services Sector-Specific Agency at

EmergencyServicesSector@cisa.dhs.gov