

Active Shooters:

A Holistic Approach

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Responding to an active shooter, be it in a school, a mall, a hospital or an office building is an onerous task for security professionals as well as law enforcement. All too often, the owner / operator of the targeted facility appears to be helpless in their effort to mitigate an Active Shooter and must respond to the best of their ability until law enforcement arrives. This scenario does not have to be the case. By developing and maintaining an accurate and detailed risk profile for your facility, owners and operators of public and private facilities have the ability to Deter, Detect, Assess, Delay and Respond to an Active Shooter. Our discussion today will discuss how you can leverage the entire security risk management spectrum of Prepare Protect, Respond and Recover in mitigating the impact of an Active Shooter.

Prepare

The Preparation Phase is where we develop the risk profile for the facility, and mitigate the risk. Three basic factors will be discussed:

- Consequence: What must we protect? Number and types of People
- Threat: What must we protect it from. Consider the Threat Profile of an Active Shooter
- Vulnerability: What must we protect it with.

The precept of analyzing risk will be discussed, with emphasis on The Active Shooter as Threat.

Protect

In any security scenario, there are Proactive measures that can be implemented to prevent the attack and Reactive measures to lesson the consequence of the attack. To be proactive, we must first consider whether or not we can identify the potential threat and manage his motivation and capability to actually become a threat. If not, we must then be prepared to react by understanding that delay and response times are critical, literally down to the second. We must then consider the fundamentals of physical security measures that can play a key role in deterring, detecting assessing and delaying an Active Shooter. Key Points include:

- Can we actually deter the threat? Who conducts mass shootings? Why?
- Layered Physical Security
- Using Behavior Recognition
- The use of Cover and Concealment

Respond

Regardless of your job description, to prevent from becoming a victim of an Active Shooter, everyone must know how and when to respond. Students will learn of the various types of personnel involved in active shootings and tactics, techniques and procedures each group should take in response to an Active Shooter as well as how to overcome the physiological impact of stress under fire. These groups include:

- Unarmed Employees / Personnel
- Unarmed Security Personnel
- Armed Personnel
- Law Enforcement Personnel

Recover

After an Active Shooter has been stopped, employees and customers cannot be expected to return to their previous activities. Security professionals must plan for various types of recovery to ensure that ALL of the company's assets are ready to return to a state of normalcy. These areas include:

- Emotional recovery for those involved
- Recovery of the physical assets damaged during the incident
- Operational recovery, making sure the business is prepared operate
- Brand recovery, reassuring stakeholders that the facility is safe.

Conclusion

Reacting to an Active Shooter does not have to be an uncontrolled episode of uncontrolled panic. By understanding your risk profile and how this information aids you in protecting and responding to such a threat, security and law enforcement professionals can make great strides in deterring these violent acts. When deterrence is not possible, these techniques aid security and law enforcement professionals in detecting the shooter as soon as possible and respond to the threat in a calm and controlled manner in order to minimize the consequence while maximizing the effectiveness of the response.