



Adventist Risk  
Management® Inc.

# ACTIVE SHOOTER WHAT TO DO

**It's a moment that no one ever expects but should... what to do in an active shooter situation. It's a stressful time as thoughts of escape, prayers, and reflections of your loved ones fill your head. There is no single response that fits all active shooter situations but knowing what to do can make a difference.**

## **1. Respond Immediately.**

Denial of the situation only delays reaction time. Leave your personal belongings behind. There's nothing in one's purse or briefcase that's more important than one's life. Items can be replaced. Life cannot.

If you not able to run, then HIDE. Lock and barricade doors with heavy furniture or other items. Turn off lights and cover windows. Remain hidden until identifiable law enforcement gives an all clear sign.

## **2. RUN! HIDE! FIGHT!**

Visualize possible escape routes as you move toward exits. Move as quickly and quietly as you can. Follow the instructions of your trained church safety officer, deacons or a first responder. Getting yourself out of harm's way must be your first priority.

## **3. Remain calm.**

Keeping a clear head in a moment of crisis might protect you and others from alerting the shooter to your presence. When first responders arrive on-site keep your hands visible at all times and follow all instructions given.



## Prepare Now

No one can prevent emergencies from happening, but creating and practicing an emergency plan helps minimize the amount of loss when an emergency takes place. The power of an emergency plan is that it is customized to fit the needs of your organization or ministry. It should ensure not only staff, but also students and members are educated and trained on how to follow the plan in the event of an emergency.

Because of the rise in active shooter incidents on church grounds and school campuses, organizations should consider conducting active shooter drills as often as fire and tornado drills. It is vital that your emergency plan include a section on responding to acts of violence.

It is important to create an emergency plan before a situation occurs. Share your plan with local first responders. Provide them with schematics and interior/exterior photos of the building complex. This will be helpful in their rescue efforts. Most importantly, practice the plan. A good plan is useless if no one knows it.

## ARM Cares

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. has several resources to help schools, houses of worship, and organizations customize their own emergency plan. Find these and other risk management resources at [AdventistRisk.org](http://AdventistRisk.org)

# WHAT TO DO DURING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION



"Most importantly, practice the plan.  
A good plan is useless if no one knows the plan."

REPORT YOUR CLAIM RIGHT AWAY

1.888.951.4276 • [CLAIMS@ADVENTISTRISK.ORG](mailto:CLAIMS@ADVENTISTRISK.ORG)

STAY INFORMED

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