

Responding to Active Shooters in Schools

While many people hold the belief that their school will never fall victim to an active shooter situation, the truth is, it can happen to anyone. To ensure the safety of students and faculty, everyone must familiarize themselves with warning signs of a potential attack and how to respond if an active shooter is at your school. Because active shooter incidents are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives, you must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation.

KEY POINTS

- Look for warning signs that might indicate an attack.
- Do not evacuate unless you are certain you won't encounter the shooter.
- Keep calm and completely silent to give the sense that nobody is in the room.

RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS

Although school shootings are not always carried out by students, they often are. Below are warning signs for students, faculty and staff to look out for:

Individuals that are socially withdrawn and isolated from peers

Anger issues or history of violence and cruelty

Fascination with weapons and previous shooting situations

Mental health issues that might cause aggressive behavior

Individuals that make threatening statements indicating violence

Heavily bullied students that appear to show discomfort

Inability to show or express joy

IF YOU ARE IN A DIFFERENT AREA THAN THE ACTIVE SHOOTER

If you are absolutely certain you can evacuate to safety without encountering the shooter, do so quickly and quietly. Do NOT rely on the sound of gunfire to pinpoint the shooter's location.

If you have doubts about safely evacuating, move every employee in the area to a designated safe room. Lock the doors or barricade them using desks, chairs or whatever is available.

Notify the police. Give them all the relevant information you have.

Keep occupants calm and completely silent. Try to give the sense that no one is inside the room.

Do not rescue an injured person if it means endangering others.

Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured people.

Wait for law enforcement to arrive. Do not leave your shelter area until given the "all clear."

IF YOU ARE IN THE SAME AREA AS THE SHOOTER

Attempt to keep desks or other objects between you to block the shooter's view.

Do not run in a straight line.

If you are in a confined area, find the safest spot and try your best to take cover until the shooter moves on.

If you are unable to flee, fight back only as a last resort.

For further information on maintaining a culture of preparedness, please visit our website. Contact one of our business resilience experts at contactus@agilityrecovery.com for more information on this or any other threat.

With an end-to-end solution, such as Agility Recovery, businesses can recover **4 times faster** than with no BCM solution.