

# Situational Awareness and Surviving an Active Shooter Situation

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# Session Objectives

- Explore active shooter situations and their outcomes
- Discuss “Situational Awareness” and how to
- Apply the concept in your everyday life
- Recognize the challenges of maintaining situational awareness
- Identify responses to active violence situations
- Understand “Cover vs. Concealment”
- Review basic survival techniques in active violence situations

# What is an Active Shooter?

- Definition accepted by U.S. government agencies:  
**“An individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.”**
- No pattern or method in selection of victims
- Usually use firearms

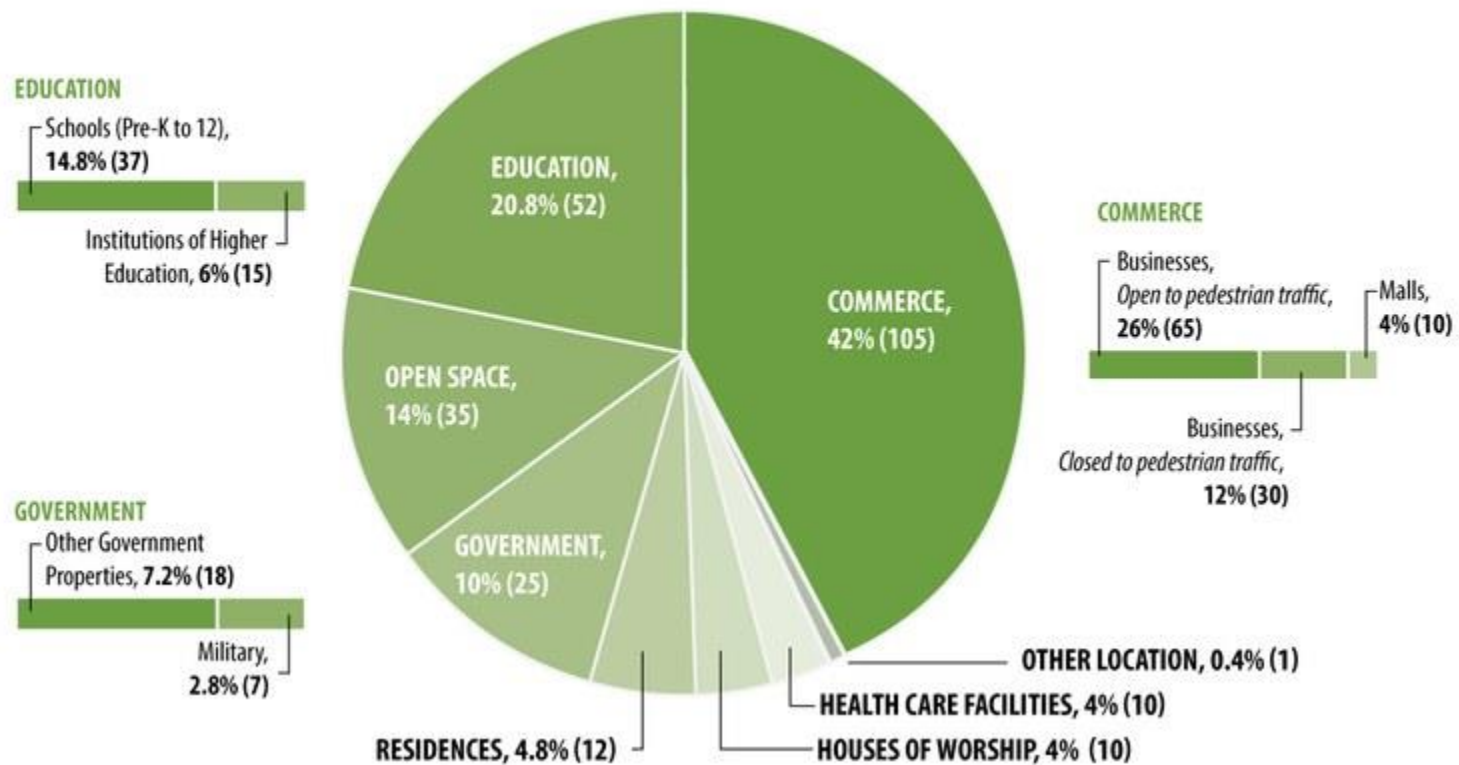


# 2000-2017: 250 Active Shooter Events



# Areas of Risk: Could it Happen to You?

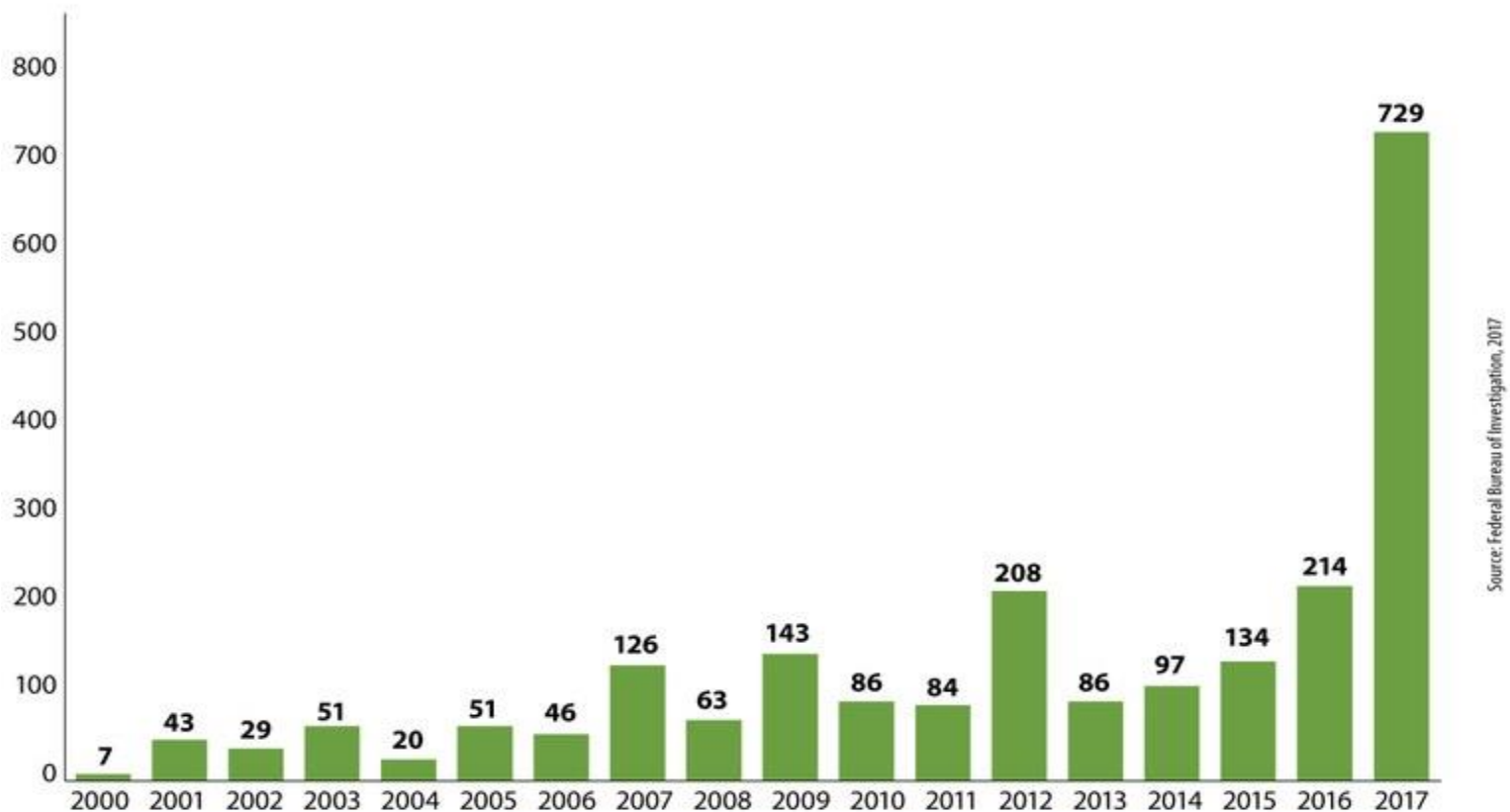
**Quick Look:** 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 to 2017  
**Location Categories**



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017

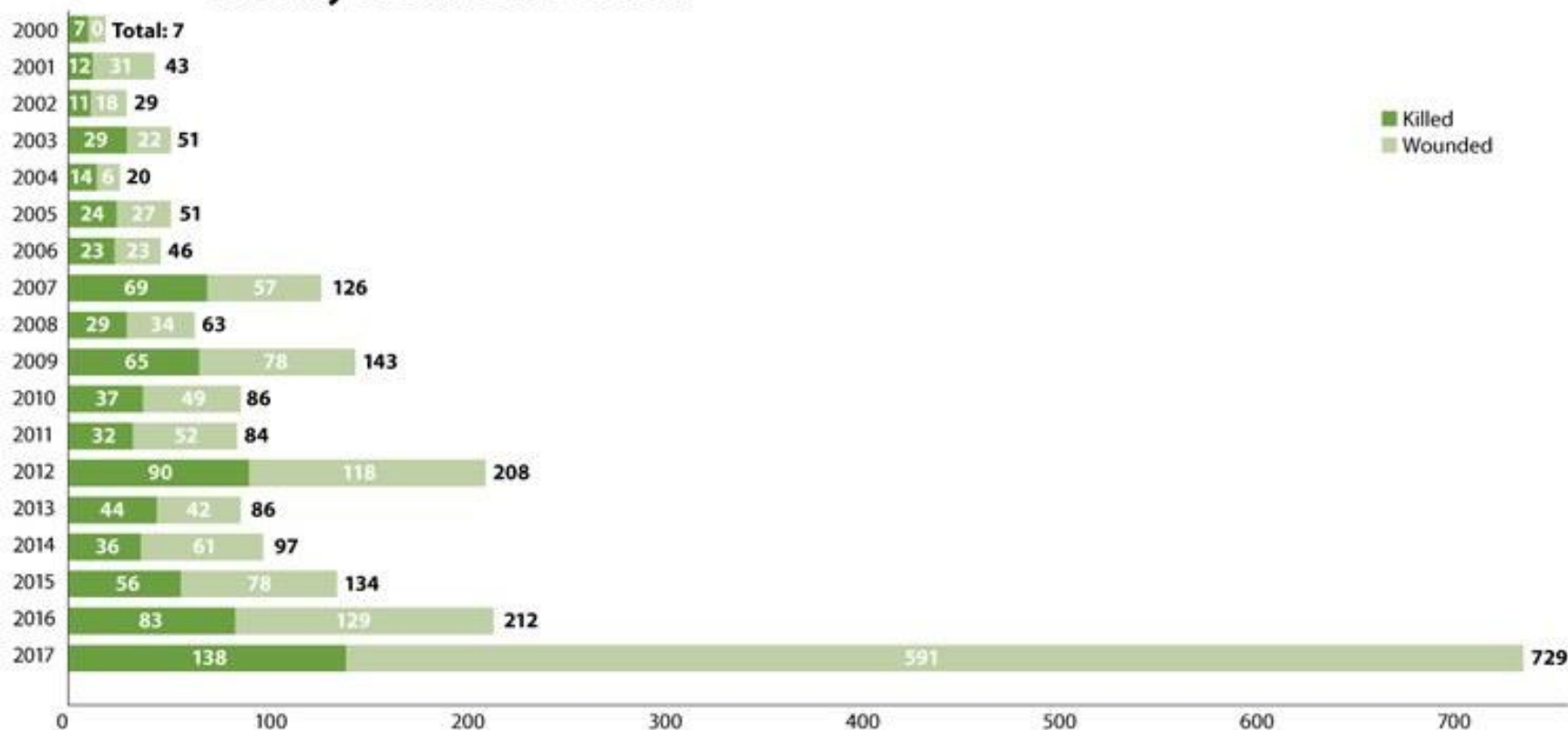
# Total Casualties: 2,217

**Quick Look:** 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 - 2017  
**Casualties Per Year**



# Casualties Continue to Increase

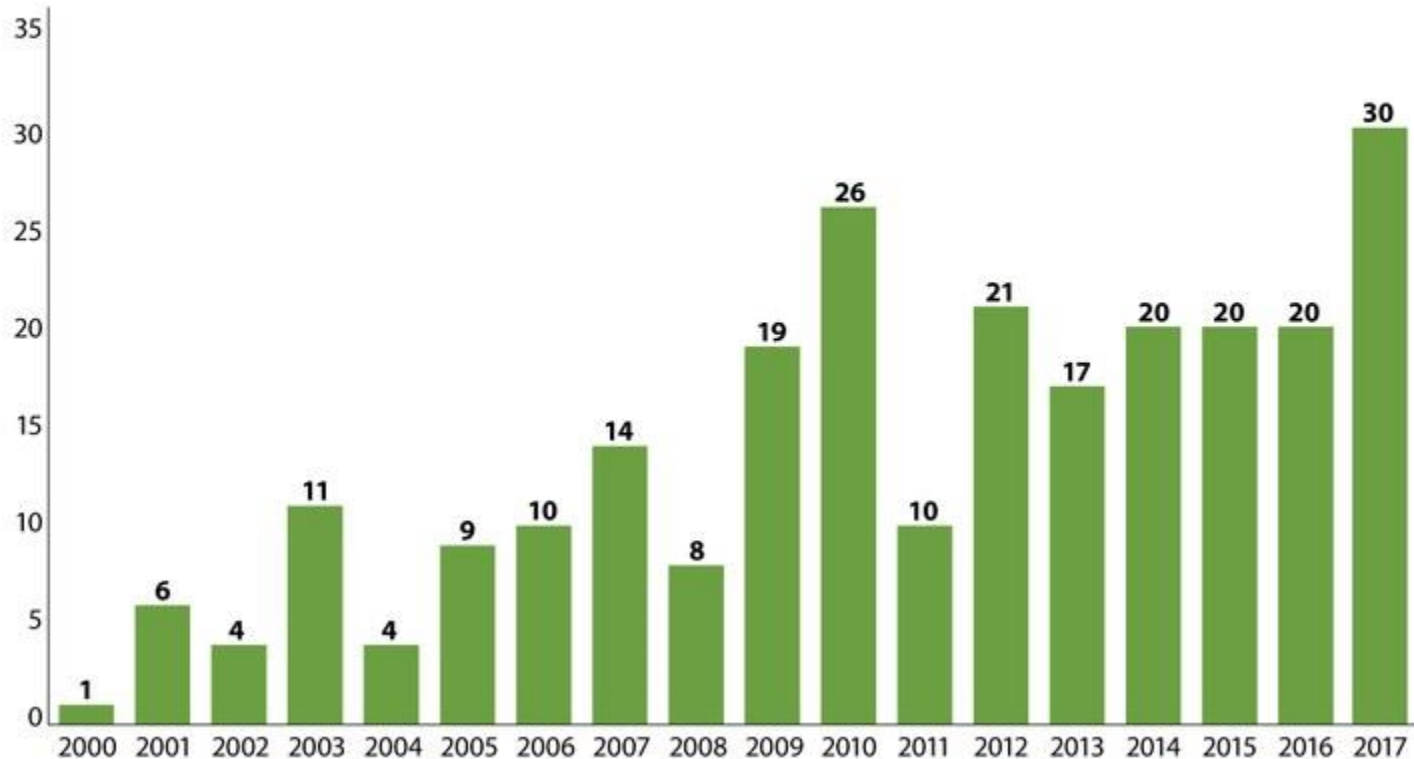
**Quick Look:** 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2017  
**Casualty Breakdown Per Year**



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017

# Events Continue to Increase

**Quick Look:** 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 - 2017  
**Incidents Per Year**



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017

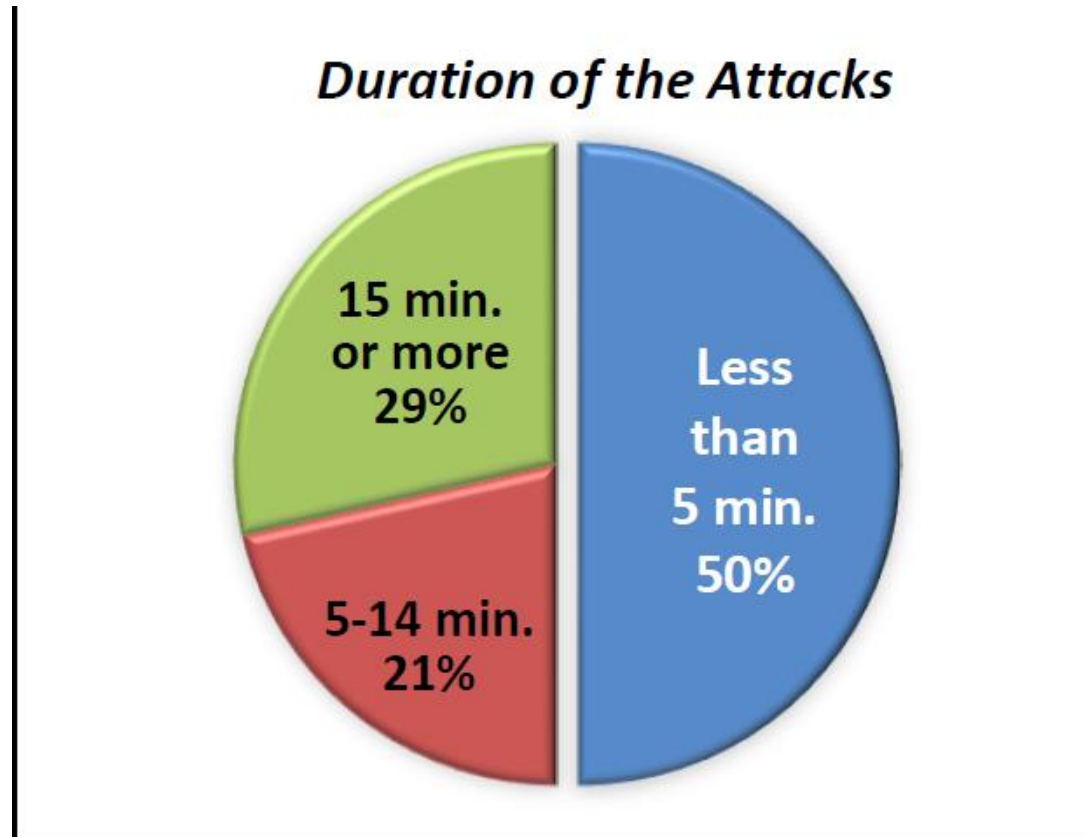
# FBI's Study of Active Shooter Incidents: 2000 - 2013

## Of 160 events studied:

- 60% ended before police arrived
- 98% of the shooters acted alone
- 40% committed suicide
- 80% used a long gun (rifle, shotgun or carbine)
- 75% brought multiple weapons and large amounts of ammunition
- 13% ended when unarmed citizens restrained the shooter



# Attacks are Dynamic Events



Average response time to priority 1 calls in Fort Worth is 9 minutes, 27 seconds

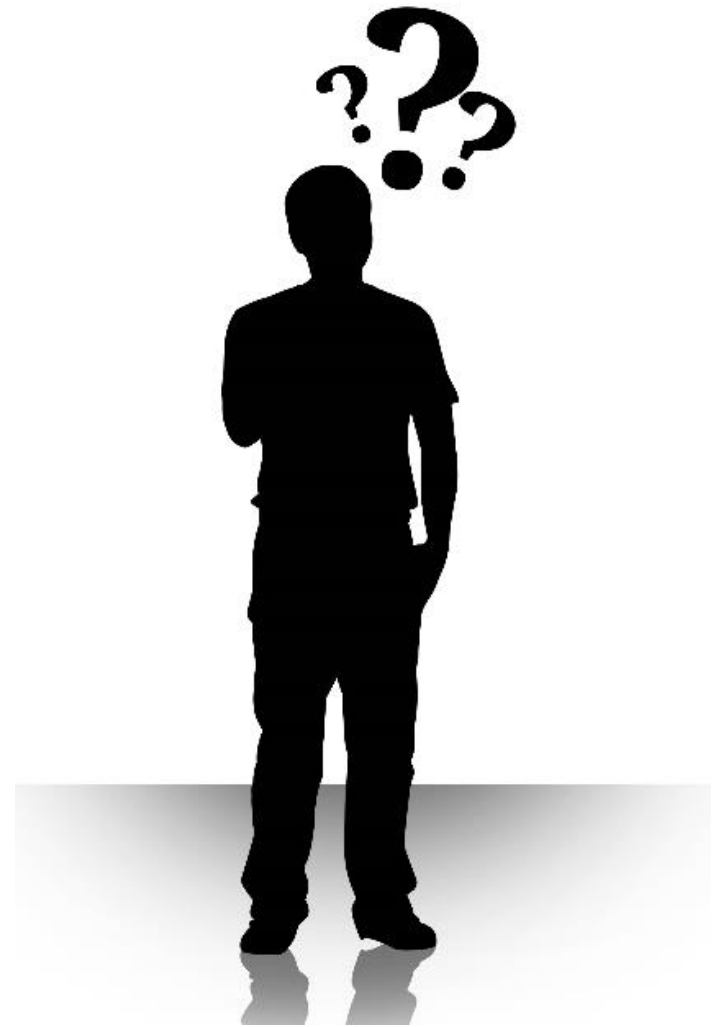
# Active Shooters are Evolving

- Trapping victims (Sandy Hook)
- Pulling fire alarms to flush victims from rooms (Parkland)
- Proactive planning to increase body count (Parkland / Las Vegas)
- Multiple firearms and explosives (San Bernardino)
- Planned fields of fire and high rate of fire weapons (Las Vegas / Pulse)
- Multiple attackers (Paris)
- Edged weapons
- Use of vehicles



**What can you do to increase your chances of survival?**

# **Situational Awareness**



# Situational Awareness

- Knowing what is happening around you AND what it means
- Awareness gives you time to think and react
- Observe
  - See and hear what is happening around you
- Orient
  - Baselines and anomalies for a particular environment
  - Mental models of human behavior
  - Plans of action depending on your observations
- Observe + Orient = **Situational Awareness**



# SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

## COMATOSE

In shock, unable to function.



## HIGH ALERT

Confirmed threat, need to take action.



## FOCUSED AWARENESS

Carefully observing a potential danger.

## RELAXED AWARENESS

Paying attention, but enjoying life.



## TUNED OUT

Unaware of surroundings.

# What Puts Us at Risk?

## Denial

- Believing it can't happen
  - Those people are not here
  - It won't happen here
  - It won't happen to me
  - If it does happen, I won't get hurt
- Dangerous phrases
  - What are the odds?
  - I hope.....
  - With all these people here?



# What Puts Us at Risk?

## Distractions

- Not paying attention is deadly
  - This isn't walking and chewing gum
  - We engage in activities that move our focus from what is going on around us



# Practicing Situational Awareness

- People watch
- Think like a bad guy
- Use your senses
- Use the environment to your advantage
  - Reflections in windows
  - Where are you at in relation to blind corners
- Be aware of what's in your hands
- Think about how you could react
- Act when appropriate



# Practicing Situational Awareness

- In Public
  - Be aware of where you are and where danger may be
  - Use your senses, especially the Spidey one
  - Stop and assess
  - Recognize and eliminate distractions
  - Be aware of your appearance
  - Recognize escape routes
- At Work
  - Be aware of co-workers and customers
  - Know the building layout
  - Look for things out of place
  - Don't put yourself in risky situations
  - Be aware of high risk people and issues
- In General
  - Don't compromise yourself



# Through Situational Awareness

- Reduce your appeal as a victim
- Give yourself and others time and space
- Avoid being in the “black”
- Practice professional and personal safety



**Increase Your Chance of Survival:**



**Dealing with Active Violence**



# Dealing with Active Violence

- Violence can happen anywhere, anytime, for any reason
- No single course of action will guarantee survival
- Survival depends on:
  - Situational awareness
  - Having a plan
  - Decisive actions
  - Being willing to fight
  - Refusal to give up



# Survival Mindset

- You cannot decide in the heat of the incident
- You have choices
  - Run
  - Hide
  - Fight
- You must always be ready to fight
  - Decide what you will do to survive



# Run if You Can Get to Safety

- Usually best option unless shooter is
  - Elevated
  - Between you and the exit
- Can you run to safety?
  - Are you physically capable of running?
  - Where are you in relationship to exits?
  - Do you know where the shooter is?
  - Where are shots coming from?
- Run fast, stay low
- Take cover once outside



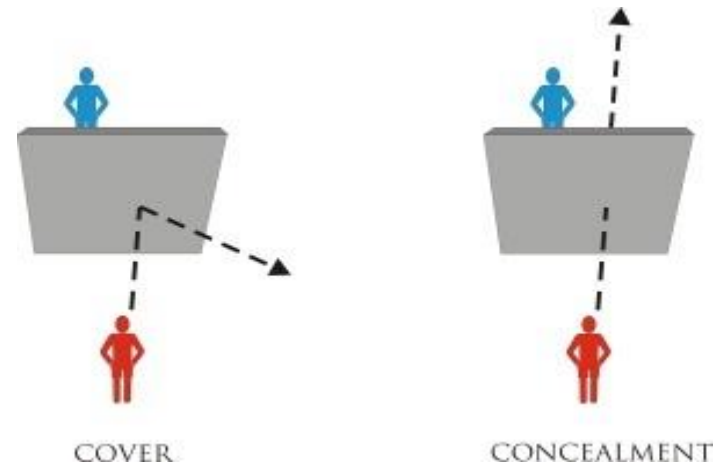
# Run: Special Situations

- High rise buildings
  - Where can you run to?
  - Stairwells can be dangerous
    - Fall situations
    - Contained target
  - Elevators can be a very poor choice
- Crowded venues
  - Stampede potential



# Cover vs. Concealment

- “Cover” stops bullets
- “Concealment” prevents you from being targeted
  - Not ballistic protection
- Either can save your life
- Hiding is concealment
  - Can become cover



# Can't Run? Consider Hiding

- Pros

- Active shooters want instant gratification
  - Won't waste time or ammo shooting at walls
- If they cannot see you, they cannot target you
- It can give you time to get ready to fight
- You can set the stage for the fight if it comes

- Cons

- You may have trapped yourself
- You may not be well hidden
- The shooter may have seen you
- You may not have cover

# Hiding

- A good course of action if:
  - You don't have a clear way to exit
  - Your exit route would take you closer to the shooter
- Identify a place to get out of sight of the shooter
- Be quiet, turn ringers on cell phones off
- Secure/barricade to delay entry
- Prepare to fight



# Case Comparison: Sandy Hook

Classroom 1



Classroom 2



# Lockdown Rooms

- Any room capable of being locked or barricaded to prevent or delay an attacker from gaining access
- The best lockdown rooms are:
  - Pre-identified with a
  - Have a lockable door
  - Have no windows
- A lockdown room is concealment, not cover
  - Harden the room
  - Prepare to fight



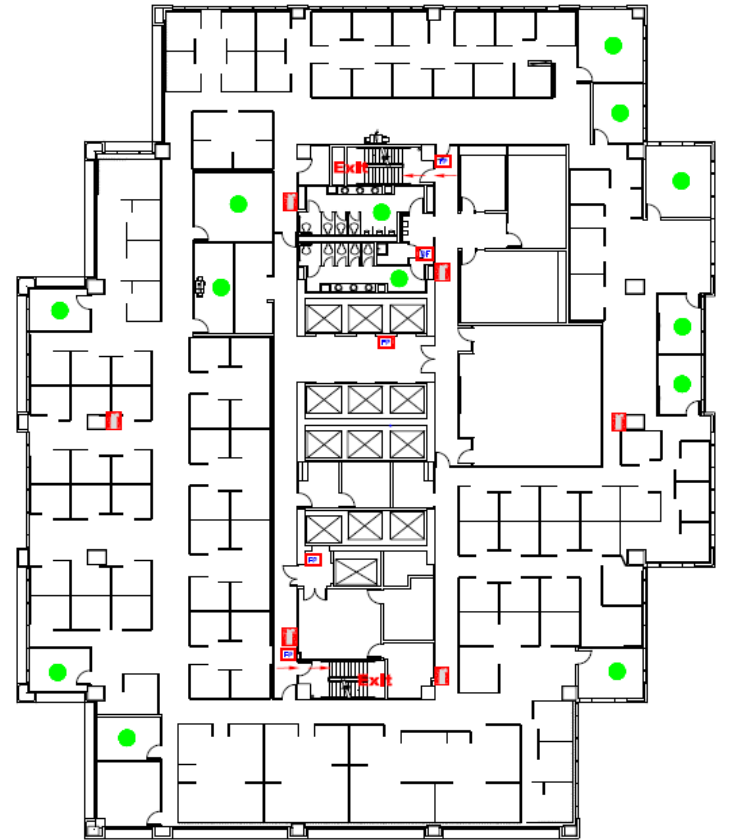
# Barricading



- Almost any room can conceal
  - Lock the door if you can
  - Barricade the door
  - Use whatever is available
  - Do what you can to delay entry
  - Do not peek out

# How APS Has Identified Lockdown Rooms

- Should be on every floor
- Doors have locks installed and no windows
- Protective laminate on any windows to delay entry
- Marked on emergency evacuation maps
- Marked with a green dot on the room



aps | Facilities  
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS — LEVEL 7  
400 N. 5TH STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85004  
EVACUATION PLAN SCALE: NTS

Legend

- Fire Alarm Pull Station
- Fire Extinguisher
- Evacuation Route
- Fire Control Communications
- Defibrillator
- See Floor Warden
- You Are Here

For updates or corrections, please contact  
Facilities Help Desk at 602-371-7700

# Get to a Lockdown Room Quickly

- Have you decided to live?
- Identify rooms to lockdown ahead of time
  - Make it a topic in safety briefs and staff meetings
- Stay unseen by the shooter
  - If you're seen going in a room, you can be trapped there
- If you cannot hide, you must run, fight or both



# Fight

- Whether run or hide, be ready to fight
- Lockdown rooms buy you time to prepare to fight
- This is a life or death situation
- Will to win will help you survive
- Fight to win!



# Fighting: Some Basics

- Shooter reloading is a moment of opportunity
- Control the muzzle of the weapon
- Attack from angles or from behind
- Use a simultaneous attack
- Force the assailant from offense mode to defense mode
- Use distraction techniques
- Fight until the shooter is unable to continue

# Boyd's OODA Loop



# Fighting: Your Advantage

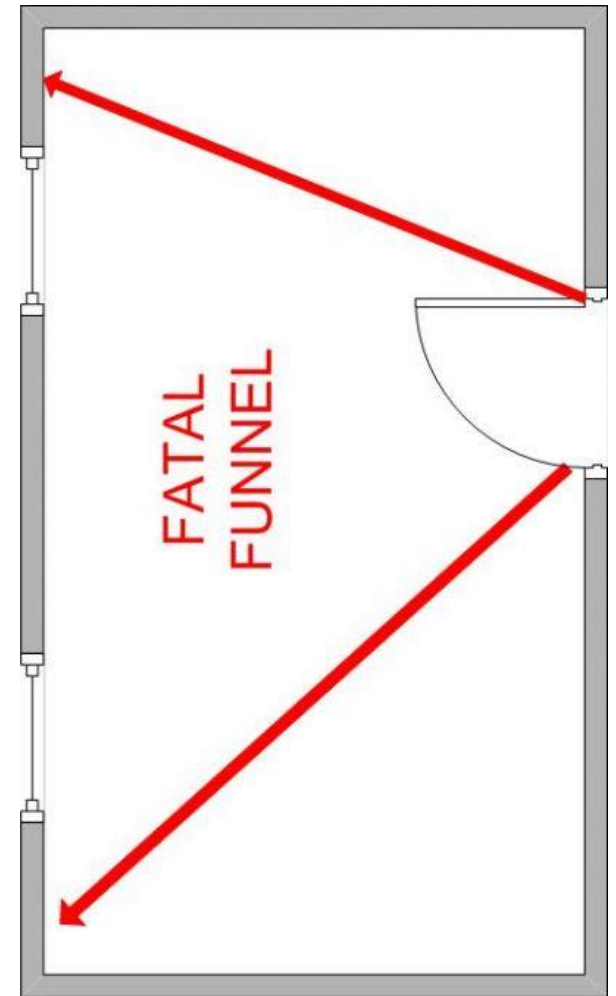
- Numbers
- Unorthodox strategies
- Your will to live
- Ability to plan



How hard would you fight to go home?

# The Element of Surprise

- Can't see whole room from door
- To get in, attacker must go
- Attack from a concealed position



# Use Leverage Control the Muzzle



# When Police Arrive

- First priority is the threat
  - They will pass over injured persons
- Stay where you are
  - They will tell you when to come out
- Keep your hands empty and visible at all times
- Follow directions
  - You will be detained
  - You will be interviewed



# Being Ready

- Assess your area
  - How are you vulnerable?
  - Where can people hide?
  - Where can people run to?
- Employee awareness
  - Do you have situational awareness training?
  - Do you talk about dealing with active shooter?
  - Do people know where to run?
  - Do people know where to hide?
- Threat assessment protocol
  - Do you have a way to report potential threats?

# Recovering From an Event

- Where will you work from?
  - Reoccupation can take many weeks
- How will you maintain operations?
  - Traumatized workforce
  - People who cannot go back to the workplace
- How will you support employees?
  - Mental and physical health
- How will you handle with memorials?
  - Services
  - Monuments
- How will you manage with the media?
  - Speculation
  - Blame

# Final Thoughts

- It is not “IF” but “WHEN”
- Awareness matters
- You CAN survive
- You can drive change
- How you prepare makes a difference



# Thank You!

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