

ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
***SHERIFF'S OFFICE***

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**Brief Guide on**  
***HOW TO RESPOND***  
***IN AN ACTIVE***  
***SHOOTER SITUATION***



## PROFILE

### OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

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.

## CHARACTERISTICS

### OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION

- Victims are selected at random
- The event is unpredictable and evolves quickly
- Law enforcement is usually required to end an active shooter situation

## HOW TO RESPOND

### WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

- Remain calm and follow instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Raise hands and spread fingers
- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating

## HOW TO RESPOND

### WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

#### 1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

#### 2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

#### 3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

**CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

# INFORMATION

## YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATOR

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters
- Physical description of shooters
- Number and type of weapons held by shooters
- Number of potential victims at the location

# COPING

## WITH AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- Attempt to take the active shooter down as a last resort

*Contact your building management or human resources department for more information and training on active shooter response in your workplace.*

# CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO