

August 2012

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

It Can Happen Anywhere

The recent tragic event in the Aurora, Colorado movie theater is a reminder that sudden violent acts can occur at anytime or in anyplace. The only control a person has during such an incident is how they react to it. That reaction will be based on a person's awareness, preparedness and training. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has training available to the public that will better prepare them for active shooter or other potential terrorist threats through increased awareness of the warning signs and real-time actions involved in these types of events.

DHS Online Course and Booklet

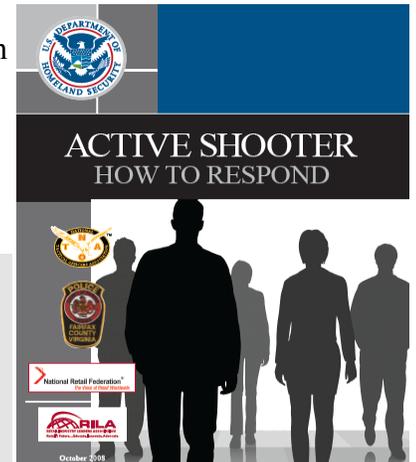
At the following link there is an online course on Active Shooter Incidents:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is907.asp>

The course provides guidance to individuals, managers and employees that will enable them to:

- Describe actions to take when confronted with an active shooter and responding law enforcement officials.
- Describe actions to take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents.
- Recognize potential workplace violence indicators.
- Describe how to manage the consequences of an active shooter incident.

The Active Shooter booklet is available at: http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf



Get Educated, Stay As Safe As Possible

The course will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. It provides excellent background and basic personal protection measures to take during this type of incident. The course also addresses the development of Emergency Action Plans for businesses and facilities. Additional supporting materials include a pocket-sized reference card and a wall poster. There is no cost for the training, and it is time well spent.

Additional Terrorism Awareness Courses

Attacks with hand held weapons or explosives are the most common forms of terrorist attack. The shooter or shooters may or may not have an agenda they are trying to bring forward. Regardless, these individuals will perform their attacks in crowded and public places. As citizens we must prepare ourselves to assist law enforcement in the prevention of these incidents. DHS has created a series of short videos that address awareness and security practices. They can be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1259859901230.shtm

The videos deal specifically with retail, lodging, public assembly and sporting events. If you do not work in any of these industries you may spend your off time there. If you do work in one of these industries, they are well worth the time to view and would make a good training session at your workplace.

A Few Simple Steps

Here are some basics everyone can do to help keep themselves, family and friends safe in public places.

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Identify the two nearest exits in any facility you visit; consider the advantages or challenges of each.
- Designate a gathering point for your group/family outside any event venue that you visit. Law enforcement may direct you to another location during a mass evacuation, but if you are evacuating on your own this will be an important thing to pre-designate.

Taking these simple steps can help; taking the training can better equip you to identify and respond to an active shooter incident.



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