

# ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS BRIEF



**CISA**  
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

May 5, 2022

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# Who We Are

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CISA works with public sector, private sector, and government partners to share information, build greater trust, and lead the national effort to protect and enhance the resilience of the Nation's physical and cyber infrastructure.

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FEDERAL NETWORK  
PROTECTION



PROACTIVE CYBER  
PROTECTION



INFRASTRUCTURE  
RESILIENCE &  
FIELD OPERATIONS



EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATIONS

# 16 Sectors & Sector Specific Agencies

 CHEMICAL	DHS (CISA)	 FINANCIAL	Treasury
 COMMERCIAL FACILITIES	DHS (CISA)	 FOOD & AGRICULTURE	USDA & HHS
 COMMUNICATIONS	DHS (CISA)	 GOVERNMENT FACILITIES	GSA & DHS (FPS)
 CRITICAL MANUFACTURING	DHS (CISA)	 HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH	HHS
 DAMS	DHS (CISA)	 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	DHS (CISA)
 DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE	DOD	 NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS AND WASTE	DHS (CISA)
 EMERGENCY SERVICES	DHS (CISA)	 TRANSPORTATIONS SYSTEMS	DOT & DHS
 ENERGY	DOE	 WATER	EPA

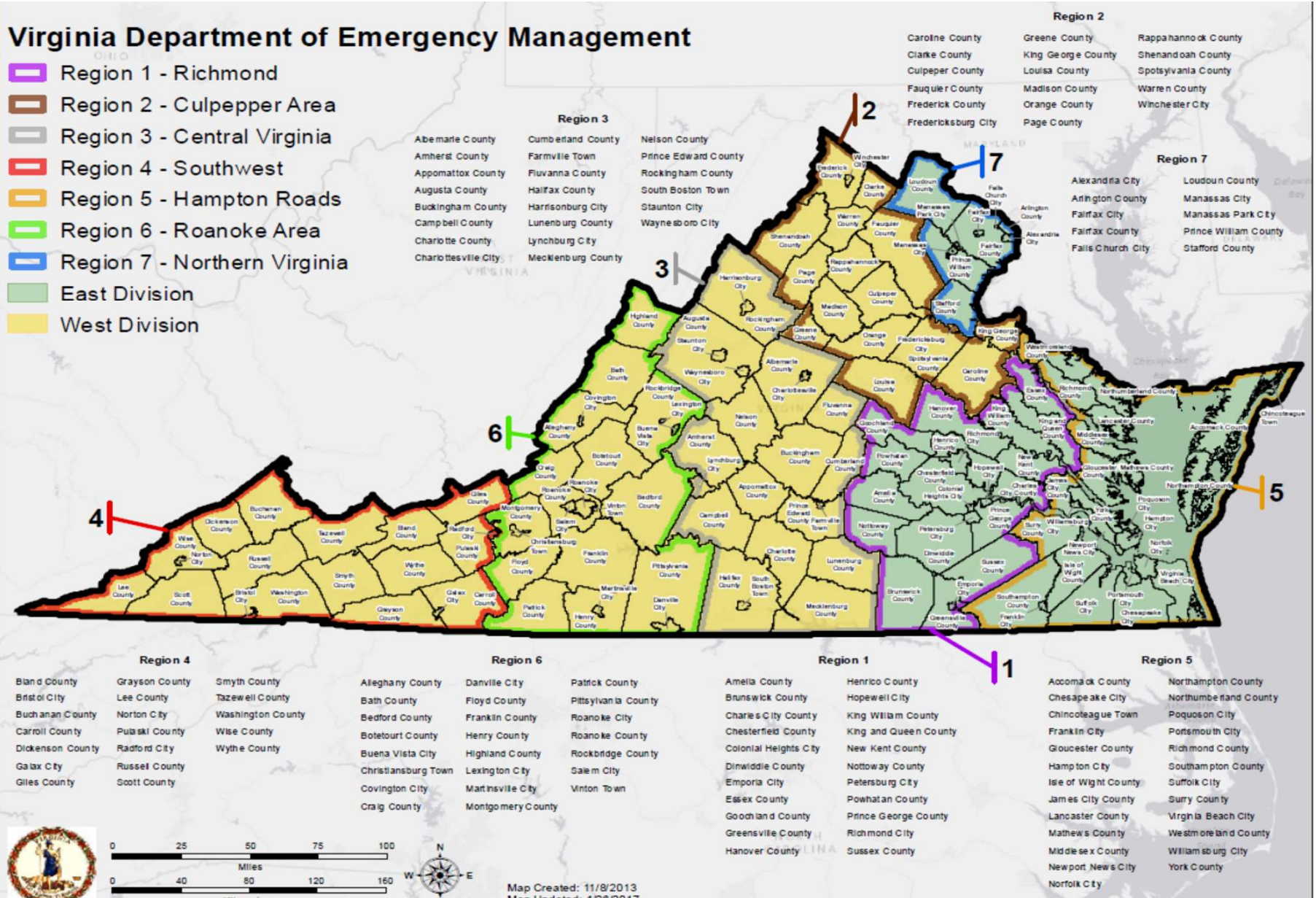
# Protective Security Advisors

- Protective Security Advisors (PSA) are field-deployed personnel who serve as critical infrastructure security specialists
- State, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) and private sector link to DHS infrastructure protection resources
  - Coordinate vulnerability assessments, training, and other DHS products and services
  - Provide a vital link for information sharing in steady state and incident response
  - Assist facility owners and operators with obtaining security clearances



# Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- Region 1 - Richmond
- Region 2 - Culpepper Area
- Region 3 - Central Virginia
- Region 4 - Southwest
- Region 5 - Hampton Roads
- Region 6 - Roanoke Area
- Region 7 - Northern Virginia
- East Division
- West Division



<p><b>Region 4</b></p> <p>Bland County Bristol City Buchanan County Carroll County Dickenson County Galax City Giles County</p> <p>Grayson County Lee County Norton City Pulaski County Radford City Russell County Scott County</p> <p>Smyth County Tazewell County Washington County Wise County Wythe County</p>	<p><b>Region 6</b></p> <p>Allegheny County Bath County Bedford County Botetourt County Buena Vista City Christiansburg Town Covington City Craig County</p> <p>Danville City Floyd County Franklin County Henry County Highland County Lexington City Martinsville City Montgomery County</p> <p>Patrick County Pittsylvania County Roanoke City Roanoke County Rockbridge County Salem City Vinton Town</p>	<p><b>Region 1</b></p> <p>Amelia County Brunswick County Charles City County Chesterfield County Colonial Heights City Dinwiddie County Emporia City Essex County Goodland County Greensville County Hanover County</p> <p>Henrico County Hopewell City King William County King and Queen County New Kent County Nottoway County Petersburg City Powhatan County Prince George County Richmond City Sussex County</p>	<p><b>Region 5</b></p> <p>Accomack County Chesapeake City Franklin City Gloucester County Hampden County Isle of Wight County James City County Lancaster County Mathews County Middlesex County Newport News City Norfolk City</p> <p>Northampton County Northumberland County Poquoson City Portsmouth City Richmond County Southampton County Suffolk City Surry County Virginia Beach City Westmoreland County Williamsburg City York County</p>
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Map Created: 11/8/2013  
Map Updated: 4/26/2017



# SAFE Tool



- The Security Assessment at First Entry (SAFE) tool is designed to assess the current security posture and identify options for facility owners and operators to mitigate relevant threats
- SAFE may be better suited for facilities such as rural county fairgrounds, houses of worship with only weekend services and few members, and small health clinics

# Faith Based Community Resource Page

- Goal of page is empowering the user to build a facility security program
  - Describes a simple process to work through a risk reduction process
  - Brief explanation of how to use the available resources
  - Focus areas for the “process”
  - Contains the building blocks for a facility or community risk reduction program
  - Continually updated to reflect new resources or guidance

<https://www.cisa.gov/faith-based-organizations-houses-worship>



# Preparation



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# Protective Measures for Public Gatherings

- Connect
- Plan
- Train
- Report



*Courtesy of DHS*



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# Connect

- Local law enforcement and emergency management
- Neighbors and community organizations
- DHS Protective Security Advisor
- FBI and Infragard
  - <https://www.infragard.org/>
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)
- Fusion centers
- Customers and patrons



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# Security Planning - Basics

- Security director
- Security plan
- Consult law enforcement and homeland security partners



*Courtesy of DHS*



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# Security Planning

- Guards
- Cameras
- Lights
- Alarms
- Walk through prior
- Good House Keeping



*Courtesy of CCTV  
Wholesalers, 2010*



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# Security Planning – Armed Security

- Consider arranging for law enforcement officers onsite.
- Consider training, licensing, and arming security guards with firearms. Considerations should include:
  - The threat
  - Law enforcement response capabilities
  - Laws governing licensing armed security guards
  - Laws concerning the use of force
  - Training and certification requirements
  - Workplace safety and liability
  - Cost
  - Public perception



# Security Planning - Communication

- Mass notification
- Emergency responders
- Notification protocol
- Employee and public messaging
- Panic Alarms



*Courtesy of DHS*



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# Emergency Action Plan – Protective Actions for Life Safety

At a minimum, every business should have procedures for:

- Fires and other emergencies
- Evacuation
- Emergency escape, shelter in place, and lockdown
- Medical response

[www.ready.gov/business/implementation/emergency](http://www.ready.gov/business/implementation/emergency)



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# Emergency Action Plan – Assisting Emergency Responders

- Cameras
- Access
- Maps
- Communication
- Staging area
- Special safety issues
- “Go Bag”



*Courtesy of DHS*

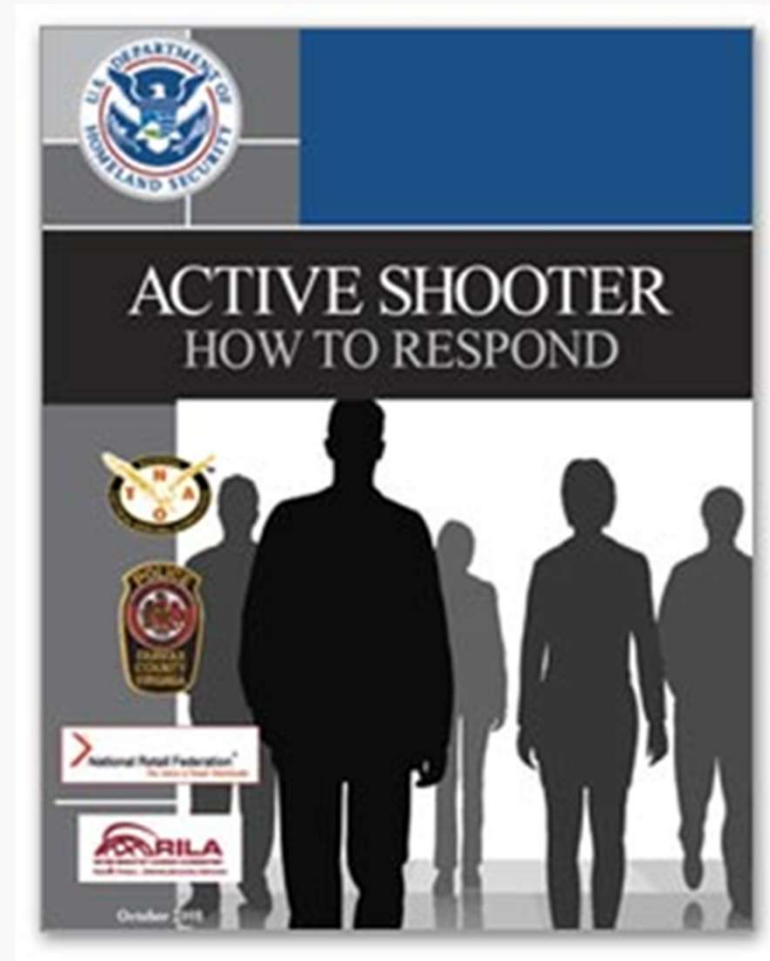


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*Courtesy of DHS*



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# Train

- Train employees on the Emergency Action Plan and on Active Shooter Response
- Conduct evacuation drills with employees, outlining evacuation routes and assembly points
- Test the security plan with drills and tabletop exercises
- Involve first responders in exercises
- [www.ready.gov/business/testing/exercises](http://www.ready.gov/business/testing/exercises)



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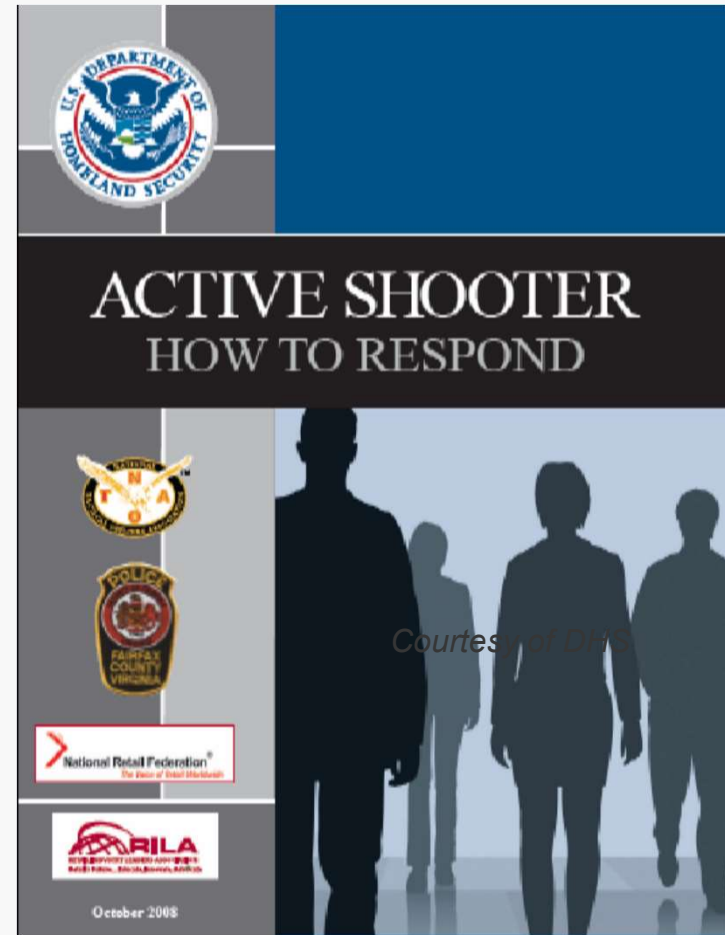
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# Training and Outreach Materials

Materials consist of three products

- Basic Guide Book
- Break Room Poster
- Pocket Emergency Measures Guide
- To download these materials, visit

[www.dhs.gov/ActiveShooter](http://www.dhs.gov/ActiveShooter)



# Online Training

- “Active Shooter, What You Can Do” (IS-907)
- Available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency Emergency Management Institute:
  - <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS907.asp>
- 45 minutes



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# Counter-IED Risk Mitigation Training

CISA's Office for Bombing Prevention delivers a diverse curriculum of accredited training to build nationwide C-IED awareness and capabilities among stakeholders.



OBP is accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) to issue the IACET Continuing Education Unit (CEU).

## Diverse Curriculum

Diverse curriculum of training designed to build counter-IED core capabilities, such as

- IED Awareness
- VBIED Detection
- Bomb Threats
- Surveillance Detection
- Protective Measures
- Suspicious Items/Activity

## Participants

- State and local law enforcement
- Federal agencies
- First responders and First Receivers
- Private sector partners

## Access Training

- In-Person Instructor Led Training – 9 courses
- Virtual Instructor-Led Training – 6 courses
- Web-Based Training – 5 courses

Access courses at [www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training-courses](http://www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training-courses)



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# Protective Measures for Public Gatherings

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*Courtesy of DHS*



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# What to Report

- Unattended packages
- Taking pictures or video of infrequently used access points, security guards, or security equipment
- Wearing unseasonably bulky clothing
- Illegally parked or out of place vehicles
- Attempting to gain unauthorized entry to restricted areas
- Presenting false or misusing insignia, documents, or identification
- Communicating a threat
- Persons with documents highlighting critical areas, infrastructure, or high-profile attendees



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# Active Shooter



**University of  
Texas Tower**

**1966**

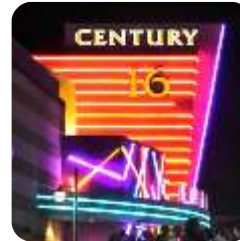


**Columbine  
High School**

**1984**

**1999**

**2007**



**Aurora  
Theater**

**2012**



**UC Santa  
Barbara**

**2013**

**2014**



**San Ysidro  
McDonald's**



**Virginia Tech**



**Sandy Hook  
Elementary**



**Washington  
Navy Yard**

An individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s), and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims



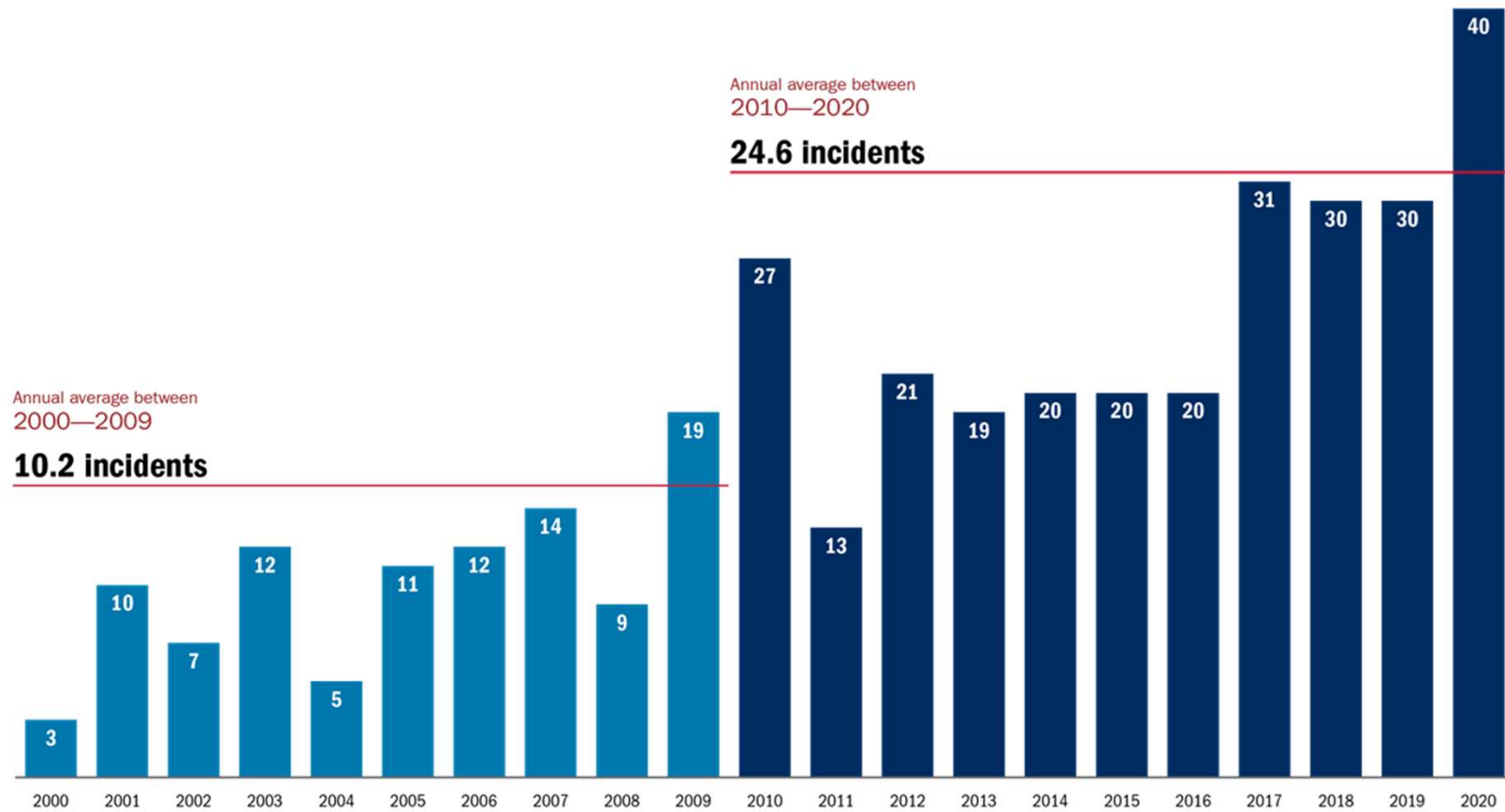
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# Active Shooter Incident Characteristics

- An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area
- In most cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims
- Most active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly
  - In 64 incidents where the duration of the incident could be ascertained, 44 (69.0%) of 64 incidents ended in 5 minutes or less, with 23 ending in 2 minutes or less.
- Preparedness and awareness are key to helping protect our employees, our customers, and ourselves

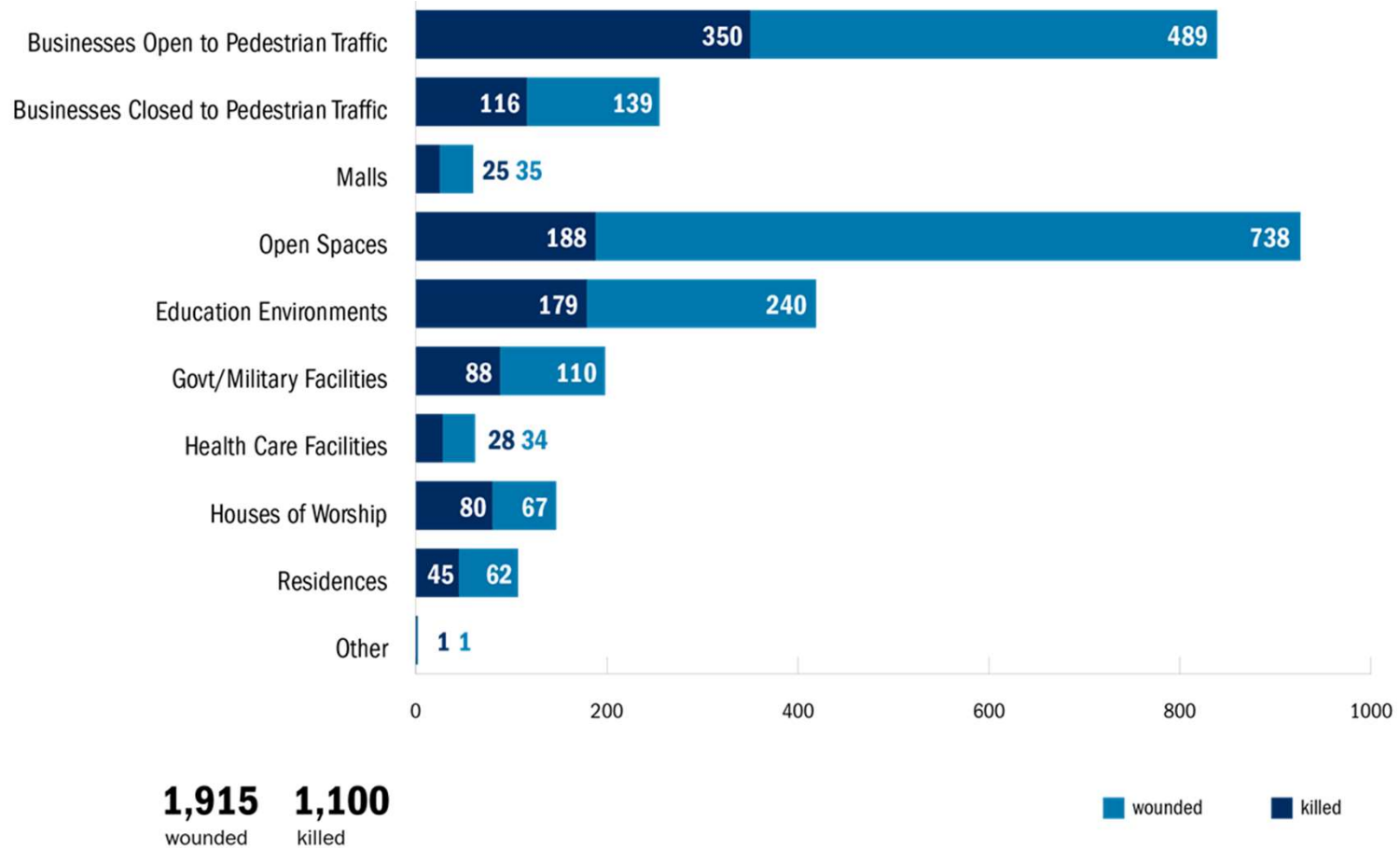


# Active Shooter Incidents 2000-2020



FBI Active Shooter Incidents 20-Year Review, 2000-2019; Active Shooter Incidents in the US 2020

# Incident Location Categories



FBI Active Shooter Incidents 20-Year Review, 2000-2019; Active Shooter Incidents in the US 2020

# 2012 Joint Intelligence Bulletin

The Federal Bureau of Investigation analyzed 154 active shooter events in the United States between 2002 and 2012 that included 3 or more individuals being shot

- Some of the facts about the shooters:
  - Deceased after the event, 51%
  - Committed suicide, 43%
  - Shot and killed by responders, 8%
  - Male, 96%
  - Acted alone, 96%
- The most common identified motivations:
  - Workplace retaliation, 21%
  - Domestic disputes, 14%
  - Academic retaliation by a current or former student, 7%
  - No clear motivation revealed, 40%

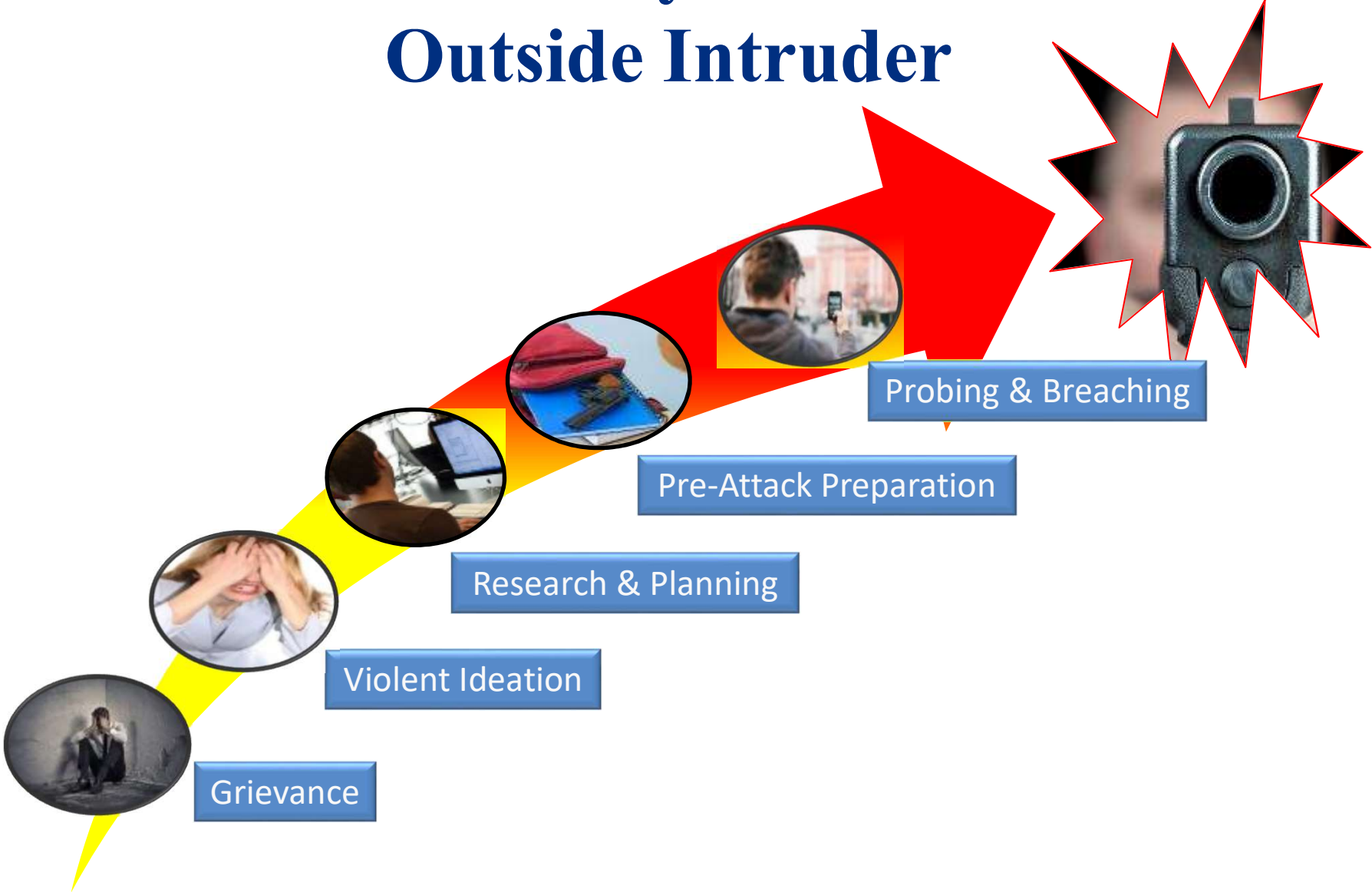


# Looking for the Bad Guy



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# The Pathway to Violence Outside Intruder



# Potential Indicators

If others recognize and report these behaviors, the employee may be assisted, supported, and treated. It is important for employers to establish communication procedures for reporting these concerns. Depending on company policy, employees should alert the Human Resources Department or Safety/Security Department.

- Thoughts:
  - Talk of previous violent incidents
  - Unsolicited focus on dangerous weapons
  - Expressions of paranoia or depression
  - Overreaction to workplace changes
- Feelings:
  - Depression or withdrawal
  - Unstable, emotional responses
  - Feeling either arrogant and supreme, or powerless
  - Intense anger or hostility
- Behaviors:
  - Increased use of alcohol or drugs
  - Violations of company policies
  - Increased absenteeism
  - Exploiting or blaming others





# Outsider - Potential Indicators

- Employees being questioned offsite
- A noted pattern or series of false alarms
- Unusual or unannounced maintenance
- Persons using video/camera/observation equipment over an extended period
- Unattended vehicles illegally parked near the buildings or places where large numbers of patrons gather
- Repeated sightings or visits of individual
- Statements by individuals, communicated verbally, in writing, or through video
  - Unusual interest in entry points, peak days and hours of operation, security personnel, cameras, and access controls



# Response



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# Run-Hide-Fight



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# Run

If you suspect an active shooter situation, you must quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life; if there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises

- Always have an escape route/plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind

Be sure to:

- Warn others not to enter an area
- Help others escape, if possible
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow
- Do not attempt to move wounded people
  
- Windows are options too!



April 20, 1999,  
Columbine High, CO



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**Call 911 when it is  
safe to do so**

# Hide / Barricade

If safe evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should:

- Be out of the shooter's view
- Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction
- Not trap or restrict your options for movement
- Silence Phone
- Turn off lights
- Do not peek

To prevent a shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture
- Move away from the door
- Spread out



# Fight

As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, should you attempt to fight

- Act as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Attack vulnerable areas
- Coordinate attack with others if possible
- Throw items and improvise weapons
- Yell
- Commit to your actions

The study identified 21 (13.1%) of 160 incidents where unarmed citizens made the selfless and deeply personal choices to face the danger of an active shooter. In those instances, the citizens safely and successfully disrupted the shootings.

# Emergency Responders

Law enforcement's primary goal is to stop the shooter as soon as possible

- Primary responsibility is to eliminate the threat; they will not be able to stop to help injured persons until the environment is safe
- Officers may arrive in teams with tactical equipment such as vests, helmets, and rifles
- Officers will need to take command of the situation; expect officers to shout orders or push individuals to the ground for their safety



September 16, 2013. Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.



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# Your Safety - Emergency Responders

- Remain calm and follow officers' instructions.
- Raise your hands, spread your fingers, and keep hands visible at all times.
- Do not run when police enter the vicinity. Drop to the floor, if you are told to do so, or move calmly out of the area or building.
- Do not make quick moves toward officers or hold on to them for safety.
- Avoid pointing, screaming, or yelling.
- Do not stop officers to ask for help or directions. Evacuate the building in the direction the officers arrived while keeping your hands above your head.
- For your own safety, do not get upset or argue if an officer questions whether you are a shooter or a victim. Do not resist, even if you are handcuffed and searched.



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# Assisting Emergency Responders

When possible, provide the following information to law enforcement officers or 911 operators:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of the shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
- Number of potential victims at the location



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## Active Shooter Preparedness

Security Awareness for Soft Targets and Crowded Places

- Active Shooter Preparedness materials available from CISA include:
  - “How to Respond” resource materials
  - Preparedness videos and training links
  - Emergency action planning tools and templates
- <https://www.cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>

# Virginia SAR

**SUSPICIOUS  
ACTIVITY?**

**Call - 877-4VA-TIPS  
(877-482-8477)**

**[www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/Report\\_Suspicious\\_Activity.shtmor](http://www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/Report_Suspicious_Activity.shtmor)**



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# Homeland Security

For more information visit:  
[www.dhs.gov/activeshooter](http://www.dhs.gov/activeshooter)

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