

## WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

In the initial chaos of an active shooter event, police have no way of knowing who you are. For your safety and to help them speed the evacuation:



- Remain calm and follow instructions.
- Drop items in your hands. (e.g., 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 ask questions when evacuating.

## INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TO 911 OPERATORS:

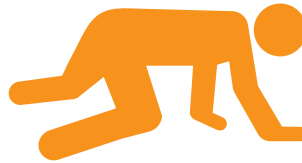
- Location of the active shooter.
- Number of shooters.
- Physical description of shooters.
- Number and type of weapons shooter has.
- Number of potential victims at location.



## IN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION REMEMBER



**RUN**  
*if possible*



**HIDE**  
*if escape is not possible*



**FIGHT**  
*only as a last resort*

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Report a Problem or Request a New Service

**CITYLINK311**  
(or 336-727-8000)  
[citylink@cityofws.org](mailto:citylink@cityofws.org)

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

from the Winston-Salem Police Department

# ACTIVE SHOOTERS

*Follow these tips to help you avoid becoming a victim.*



# ACTIVE SHOOTER

**An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.**

- Victims are selected at random. There is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.
- Active shooter events are unpredictable and evolve quickly.
- Because most incidents are over within minutes, you must be prepared to deal with the situation until law enforcement personnel arrive.
- Active Shooters will usually continue to move throughout a building or area until stopped by law enforcement, suicide, or other intervention.
- Knowing what to do can save lives.

## In an active shooter situation

**When an Active Shooter is in your vicinity, you must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the situation.**

**You have three options: 1. Run. 2. Hide. 3. Fight.**



## 1. RUN

**If possible escape in the opposite direction from the shots**

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Do not attempt to move the wounded.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Call 911 when you are safe.
- Have your car key in hand before reaching the door.

## 2. HIDE

**If you are unable to get out because the shooter is between you and the only exit, hide.**

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view.
- Lock door or block entry to your hiding place.
- Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.

## 3. FIGHT

**Fight as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.**

- Act with as much physical aggression as possible.
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter.
- Improvise weapons or throw items at the active shooter.
- Commit to your actions...your life depends on it.

**The first officers to arrive on scene will not stop to help the injured. Expect rescue teams to follow initial officers. These rescue teams will treat and remove the injured.**

**Once you have reached a safe location, you likely will be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave the area until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.**

