

ACTIVE ASSAILANT PREPAREDNESS AND SECURITY RESOURCES



Is There a Threat?

- There is no known specific threat to summer camps
- Recent and historical events suggest a general elevated threat
 - National Threat Advisory System Bulletin- lone offenders
 - Life stressors and grievances from economy, social isolation from COVID, etc.
 - Mass media coverage
- These incidents, while tragic, are *very* rare
- You can prepare for and prevent these events!



Awareness + Action = Prevention



Connect, Plan, Train, Report

- Connect- meet your 911 responders
 - Host a “First Responder Day” or just a walkthrough at camp
- Plan- a good plan now is better than a perfect plan later
 - Keep it simple and easy to learn and execute
 - Develop more detailed plans in the off-season
- Train- brief and rehearse your Emergency Action Plan with staff
 - This can be as simple as a staff “huddle” or a more structured, scripted event
 - Share your plan with your first responders
- Report- situational awareness is critical!
 - Establish a reporting process at camp



Encourage staff to “trust their gut”- if it *feels* wrong, it probably is



Response to an Active Assailant

- Pick a protocol that works for you
 - Run, Hide, Fight
 - Standard Response Protocol (“I Love You Guys” Foundation)
 - ALICE
- You are playing for time!
 - These incidents are typically short, but...
 - Rural camp locations may increase law enforcement response time
- Use your advantages- Camp structures, terrain, and vegetation provide cover and concealment
- Fight only if you must- but if you must, commit completely to it
 - Attacks normally end at first meaningful resistance
 - Swarm the attacker, use improvised weapons- anything to overwhelm, confuse, or disable the threat



Active Shooter Preparedness

CISA's Active Shooter Preparedness Program supports stakeholders in security capacity building against the active shooter threat—the most prominent attack method in the U.S.



cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness



In-Person and Virtual Workshops



Independent Study



Active Shooter Mitigation Security Guidance



Translated Materials



Instructional and Informational Videos



Outreach and Partnerships

Employee Vigilance through the Power of Hello



The OHNO approach – **Observe, Initiate a Hello, Navigate the Risk, and Obtain Help** – helps employees observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, empowers them to mitigate potential risk, and obtain help when necessary.

cisa.gov/employee-vigilance-power-hello



De-Escalation Series

RECOGNIZE
How You Can Notice the Warning Signs of Violence

Co-workers, friends, and family are often best positioned to recognize the warning signs in someone who may be on a path to violence.

People who resort to violence are often driven by a combination of predispositions, personal or professional stressors, and assorted resentments.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Stressors
- Changes
- Resentment

A person's behaviors and communications are often disclosed through nonverbal means. Pay attention to what people are saying through facial expressions, emotions, and body language.

Individuals are unique and will likely not discuss intentions or needs in a uniform manner. Behaviors that some people find troubling or threatening may vary very well be someone's way of asking for help.

People have bad days. They can become sad, agitated, or angry; this does not mean there is intent to cause harm.

Confirmation of a threat requires a solid understanding of context and a holistic assessment of the person's circumstances and stressors.

When you report, you create an opportunity to prevent potentially violent situations.

When you notice the warning signs, you can help prevent violence in two primary ways. One applies to urgent situations when violence may be occurring or is imminent. The other enables you to help people by reporting your observations.

Clearly communicate the threat while seeking safety if you recognize that a hostile act is occurring or is imminent, remove yourself from the situation and seek safety while communicating the threat and suggested response in a loud, clear voice (e.g., "Get! "Run! "Bombs! "Get Out!").

Inform others if you recognize a warning sign and there is no imminent threat, inform others of what you have seen or know. Tell a supervisor, manager, security guard, or other employee if team member.

This document describes activities and behaviors that may be concerning or indicative of escalating violence. Some of these activities when occurring, may be considered prohibited and should be reported only when there are sufficient facts to support a rational conclusion that the behavior represents a credible threat of violence. Do not report based solely on prohibited activities, or on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or a combination of any such factors, or address, be aware that critical infrastructure sectors and their operations may also be targeted based on these factors.

ASSESS
How To Navigate the Risk When Someone Is Escalating

The assessment process determines whether an emergency response is needed, if de-escalation is possible, or if a more formal assessment is required.

Begin with Awareness to Enable Assessment

- Awareness of precipitating events or stressors
- Awareness of your response and ability to manage your emotions
- Awareness of the situation to determine if you should engage, whether a simple "Tada" will enter a threat or a more purposeful action to de-escalate the situation is required, or immediate notification to law enforcement or security is necessary

When observing activity or behaviors that raise reasonable suspicions or concerns, individuals should assess the situation to protect personal safety and the safety of those around them.

WHAT DOES AN ESCALATING PERSON LOOK LIKE?

Early Warning Signs

- Changes in a person's baseline behavior
- Pacing, arm-waving, agitated gestures, or uncontrolled and disorganized behaviors
- Staring through you
- An unauthorized person trying to enter a restricted area
- Someone impersonating an authorized person
- Someone trying to avoid security systems or personnel
- Change in mood
- Distractions from work or an inability to focus
- Inappropriate responses to environmental stressors

Signs of Imminent Danger

- Intensity in appearance with heightened senses
- Flushed, tightened jaw, clenched fists, shaking, flaring nostrils
- Rapid breathing, raised voice, nervous laughter
- Propped to glare or lunge
- Standing in a position to attack or defend
- Proximal space violation
- An unauthorized person trying to enter a restricted area
- Someone impersonating an authorized person
- Someone trying to avoid security systems or personnel
- Someone abandoning an object or package and then leaving the area

Barriers to Assessment and De-Escalation

- Lack of empathy
- Reacting with defensiveness or anger
- Lack of respect for or shaming others
- Blaming, criticizing, praising, labeling, or lecturing
- Lack of objection to obligations, being preoccupied, or in a hurry
- Ordering or engaging in a power struggle
- Language or culture differences

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DE-ESCALATION
How You Can Help Defuse Potentially Violent Situations

De-Escalation

The use of communication or other techniques during an encounter to stabilize, slow, or reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation without using physical force, or with a reduction in force.

Department of Homeland Security Policy Statement 044-02

De-Escalation is a method to prevent potential violence. Individuals are encouraged to use purposeful actions, verbal communications, and body language to calm a potentially dangerous situation.

Your safety and the safety of others is the highest priority. Maintain a safe distance and avoid being alone with an individual who is combative or potentially violent. If there is a risk of imminent violence, remove yourself from the situation and seek safety.

Know your limits. Keep in mind that some individuals may be more adept in applying these techniques. Know your own vulnerabilities and tendencies and recognize that sometimes the best intervention is knowing when to seek additional help.

Obtain Help. If you feel the individual or situation is escalating and violence may occur, call for help from your security staff or local law enforcement and move yourself to a safe location.

TIPS

- Be aware of your non-verbal communications. Ensure your tone, facial expressions, and body language, and gestures relay calm and empathy.
- Remain respectful and courteous. Address the individual's identity and use phrases such as "please" and "thank you."

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REPORT
How To Engage Your Organization and Community

Reporting is critical to the prevention of workplace and community violence. Threats that are not known cannot be managed.

Reporting behaviors that raise concerns or an incident that is escalating plays an essential role in protecting yourself and others from a potentially violent situation by:

- Alerting first responders to provide appropriate intervention in cases of an imminent or credible threat
- Engaging your organization to enable assessment and management of a potential escalating threat

When making a report, the goals are to prevent violence and to get help for the individual of concern. Reporting is not intended to be punitive, to get someone in trouble, to send someone to jail, to cost someone a job, or to damage someone's reputation. Engagement following a report can discourage or stop someone from making a mistake and acting on violent ideas.

There are two types of reporting:

- Calling 9-1-1 for immediate threats to enable assessment and management of an evolving threat
- Organizational Reporting to enable assessment and management of an evolving threat

In either case - ensure your personal safety before making a report

Calling 9-1-1

If the person of concern is directly threatening you or others, if a weapon of any kind is involved, or you feel that the threat of violence is imminent, move to a safe location and call 9-1-1.

The 9-1-1 call taker will need specific information to provide an appropriate response:

- Your name
- The location of the incident
- The location of the person of concern
- Your exact location
- A description of the situation
- Is the incident still in progress?
- A physical description of the person of concern
- The type and number of weapons, if any
- The number of potential victims

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Recognize - the warning signs for someone on a path to violence, identify stressors, changes in baseline behavior, and observable behavioral indicators.

Assess - the situation to protect personal safety and the safety of those around you. Identify what an escalating person may look like and warning signs.

De-Escalation - Individuals are encouraged to use purposeful actions, verbal techniques, and body language to calm a potentially dangerous situation. Safety is the highest priority, know your limits and obtain help immediately if needed.

Report - concerning behavior or an escalating incident through organizational reporting to enable assessment and management of an evolving threat, and 9-1-1 for immediate threats.



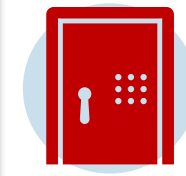
Security Best Practices



Establish a multi-layered plan for security, identify clear roles and responsibilities



Conduct a vulnerability assessment to understand the risks specific to your location



Assess current doors, ensure they can withstand a determined intruder for up to ten minutes



Develop an emergency action plan - coordinate, train, and exercise the plan with local law enforcement and first responders



Outer, middle, and inner perimeter security considerations Lights, CCTV, windows, access control

A welcoming environment does not mean a defenseless one.









cisa.gov/hometown-security
cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings
cisa.gov/cisa-tabletop-exercises-packages

Protecting K-12 Schools

Federal School Safety Clearing House

The **CISA School Safety Task Force** manages and administers the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse, an interagency effort between the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Education, and Health & Human Services to **coordinate Federal efforts on school safety and security**

 <p>Provide one-stop access to school safety resources and programs through SchoolSafety.gov</p>	 <p>Connect school safety stakeholders at Federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels</p>
 <p>Dynamic and multi-pronged approach to unique needs of schools</p>	 <p>Identify gaps in knowledge, resources, technologies and recommend best practices</p>
 <p>Increase awareness and coordination of school safety mission and resources</p>	 <p>Identify actionable steps schools can take to bolster safety across the preparedness continuum</p>








[schoolsafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov)

CISA K-12 School Security Guide and Survey

Provide schools with a comprehensive **doctrine and systems-based methodology** for vulnerability assessment, planning and implementation of layered security elements.

Associated Product Suite

-  CISA K-12 School Security Guide ([3rd Edition](#))
-  School Survey ([Assessment Tool](#))
-  Vulnerability Assessment Tool Training
-  Systems-Based Methodology Training
-  Train-the-Trainer Toolkit

Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship Security Guide



CISA **analyzed ten years of targeted attacks** on houses of worship between 2009 and 2019



Take a **holistic approach to security** by assigning clear roles and responsibilities and creating a multi-layered security plan



A robust security plan should be **tailored to the specific needs and priorities** of the house of worship



Conduct a **vulnerability assessment to understand the risks to the house of worship** from which you may prioritize implementing any subsequent safety measures.



Self-Assessment Tool


An **easy to use, interactive, security-focused self-assessment** tool that assists stakeholders in understanding potential risks and identifying corresponding risk mitigation solutions.

QUESTION	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	VERY HIGH
1. Does the house of worship have a security manager or security committee to make security management decisions?	The house of worship does not have a security manager or committee.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee, but security management activities are sporadic.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled, but not coordinated with other committees, departments, or groups (e.g., special events planning, childcare).	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled and coordinated with other committees, departments, and groups, but additional personnel are needed to support the facility's security mission.	The house of worship has a security manager or committee. Security management activities are regularly scheduled and coordinated with other committees, departments, and groups, and staffing levels fully support the facility's security mission.
	<input type="radio"/> Very Low	<input type="radio"/> Low	<input type="radio"/> Medium	<input type="radio"/> High	<input type="radio"/> Very High

Results of the assessment can **assist organizations in improving security and managing identified risks** through the ability to:



Prioritize potential security measures



Review best practices and available resources



Develop investment justifications for internal budgeting processes or external grant requests





For more information:
cisa.gov/securing-public-gatherings

To reach a Protective Security Advisor:
cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors
central@cisa.dhs.gov

Questions?
CISA.ISD.OSP_Active_Assailant_Security@cisa.dhs.gov