



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, keeping your 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.

INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR THE 9-1-1 DISPATCHER

- 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.

For more information, read this informative booklet from the Department of Homeland Security: https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf.



CONTACT US:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

ACSO Important Phone Numbers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ACSO Main Administration | 352.367.4000 |
| Crime Prevention Unit | 352.374.1800 |
| Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty | 352.372.7867 |
| Dept. of the Jail | 352.491.4444 |
| Evidence Section | 352.367-4076 |
| Human Resources | 352.367.4040 |
| Narcotics Tip Line | 352.374.1849 |
| Patrol | 352.367.4101 |
| Public Information | 352.367.4050 |
| Property Unit | 352.367.4078 |
| Records Bureau | 352.367.4006 |
| Victim Advocate Unit | 352.367.4193 |



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Sheriff Chad D. Scott

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627
 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641
<https://www.acso.us>



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
 @AlachuaSheriff



ACSO 2025

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ACTIVE SHOOTER

AN AMERICAN PROBLEM

Rarely does a week pass by in the United States without a report of one or more mass shootings. In fact, according to [GunViolenceArchive.org](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/), there were 502 mass shooting incidents between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, resulting in the deaths of 509 people and injuring an additional 2,200 (not including the shooters themselves). That equates to more than nine mass shootings in this country every single week.

ACTIVE SHOOTER VS. MASS SHOOTER

The FBI defines a mass shooting as one where four or more people (excluding the shooter) are killed in one incident.

An active shooter is defined by the Department of Homeland Security “as an individual engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.”



PROFILE OF THE MASS MURDERER

Research conducted by the FBI has shown that the majority of these shooters are males ranging in age from their early teens to their late 80's.

They may have an avenger mentality. Once they get angry about a situation, the anger builds up and then they launch into an attack on others.



MOTIVATIONS

The attacks can be grievance-based (victims of actual or perceived bullying or persecution) or ideological (i.e., victims are a different race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or political belief than the shooter). The shooter may have an untreated mental illness or may feel that committing mass murder will bring them attention, recognition, or respect.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT

- Firearms are the typical weapon, but it could be something else, like a knife or hammer.
- Multiple victims are targeted at random.
- High concentrations of people.
- Mostly over in a matter of minutes, with 55% of them over before law enforcement can arrive on scene.

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

There are things you can do to protect yourself in an active shooter situation. The first thing is to always be aware of your surroundings. Statistically, you are more likely to be struck by lightning than killed in an active shooter event, but unlike lightning, you may not have any prior warning of an active shooter. To stay prepared, always be alert to your surroundings and environment and be prepared to act if necessary. When you enter a building, look for the two nearest exits or for possible secure hiding spots.

RUN! HIDE! FIGHT!

RUN

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

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.

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 shooter.