



# **COUNTERING ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING**

***CATT Participant Guide***



*The Secure Community Network (SCN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN works on behalf of 146 Federations, the 50 largest Jewish nonprofit organizations in North America and over 300 independent communities as well as with other partners in the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors to ensure the safety, security and resiliency of the Jewish people.*

*SCN serves as the Jewish community's formal liaison with federal law enforcement and coordinates closely with federal, state and local law enforcement partners on safety and security issues related to the Jewish community; through the organization's Operations Center and Duty Desk, SCN analyzes intelligence and information, providing timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners. SCN's team of law enforcement, homeland security and military professionals proactively works with communities and partners across North America to develop and implement strategic frameworks that enhance the safety and security of the Jewish people. This includes developing best practice policies, emergency plans and procedures; undertaking threat and vulnerability assessments of facilities; providing critical, real-world training and exercises to prepare for threats and hazard; offering consultation on safety and security matters; and providing response as well as crisis management support during critical incidents.*

*SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations and communities, as well as life and culture, can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish.*

*The Secure Community Network was formed under the auspices of:*



**The Jewish Federations**  
OF NORTH AMERICA



**CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**  
of Major American Jewish Organizations

## WHY COUNTERING ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING?

Over the last several years, we have seen increased levels of hate crimes and anti-Semitic incidents as well as physical violence directed at the Jewish people around the world and in North America. Between October 2018 and December 2019, there have been four deadly attacks on the Jewish community in North America. In the same time frame, law enforcement disrupted numerous plots aimed at Jewish organizations in the United States alone.

While we will not pick the time and date of the next incident that will affect our community, we can choose to prepare: investing time, effort, resources, and energy in sound safety and security strategies and practices to keep our families safe and our community secure. A critical component of these efforts relates to training.

Simply put: Training saves lives. In multiple instances—from Pittsburgh to Monsey—survivors have credited training with saving lives. Training and exercise provide critical skills while empowering our community and enhancing resiliency.

The Countering Active Threat Training (CATT) was designed by a team of national professionals with deep instructional design backgrounds and critical real-world experience, from training and preparing thousands of members of the Jewish community as well as law enforcement to actually responding to critical incidents both in the United States and abroad. The design, development, and piloting process involved engagement with key partners, which included law enforcement, stakeholders and community members.

This training was designed with input from the community, for the community: from the congregant to the Rabbi, the parent to the principal, and from the frontline—or front desk—volunteer to those charged with security, inclusive of the diverse voices that make up our community.

The goal of the training is to provide participants with a better understanding of active threats, as well as—critically—potentially lifesaving response options.

SCN developed this training with a singular goal, in the same way we approach fire safety across North America: national delivery and adoption of a uniform, best practice, timely, concise protection strategy that can be applied in a moment of need across facilities and communities to save lives.

**Goal:** *Adopting uniform protection strategies based on best practices; mitigating risk through the national and local implementation of counterthreat tactics, techniques, and procedures; addressing the vulnerabilities of communities improves community resilience from within.*



## Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

3

This is Countering Active Threat Training (CATT), developed by the Secure Community Network (SCN) with input from security professionals, law enforcement, and community partners. The training today will take approximately 90 minutes.

With the increase in targeted violence, community-oriented training is critical; we know it can save lives. Our goal is to provide you with tools and techniques that can help keep you alive if you find yourself in an Active Threat situation.



### Protecting the North American Jewish Community

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*The Secure Community Network is recognized by the United States Department of Homeland Security as a “national best practice.”*



# Administrative Logistics

- Ground rules
- Operational security (OPSEC)
- Emergency exits
- Bathroom locations
- Mobile phone usage

## Training includes:

- Presentation
- Feedback Form
- Participant Guide



This training is 90–120 minutes.



The facilitator will identify the location of emergency exits and routes.



The facilitator will identify the location of restrooms.



If an emergency requires evacuation (e.g., active threat, fire, or fire alarm) please follow the guidance provided by the facilitator.



Please silence your mobile phone and take calls in the hallway, if necessary.



SCN training is a no-fault environment, meaning we want to share your ideas and ask that we not judge others' ideas.



Please ask questions. Your questions will not only benefit you, but the class as well.



Please advise the facilitator if you do not have a Participant Guide.



The training evaluation is critical to SCN training quality control.



Each page of this guide has a section for notes.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

None



# About the Facilitator

Facilitator Name:

Facilitator Title:

Facilitator Bio:

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

5



The facilitator will briefly introduce him/herself.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# About SCN



- Established in 2004 as the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community of North America
- Staffed by law enforcement, security and military professionals
- Formed under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations



The Jewish Federations®  
OF NORTH AMERICA



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of Major American Jewish Organizations

SCN Community Active Threat Training (CATT)

6

- Since 2004, SCN has been the official organization responsible for the safety and security of the Jewish community in North America.
- SCN was formed under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.
- The Countering Active Threat Training (CATT) was designed by a team of national professionals with deep instructional design backgrounds and critical real-world experience, from training and preparing thousands of members of the Jewish community as well as law enforcement to actually responding to critical incidents both in the United States and abroad, and involved engagement with key partners, stakeholders, and community members to ensure an inclusive approach.

## Notes



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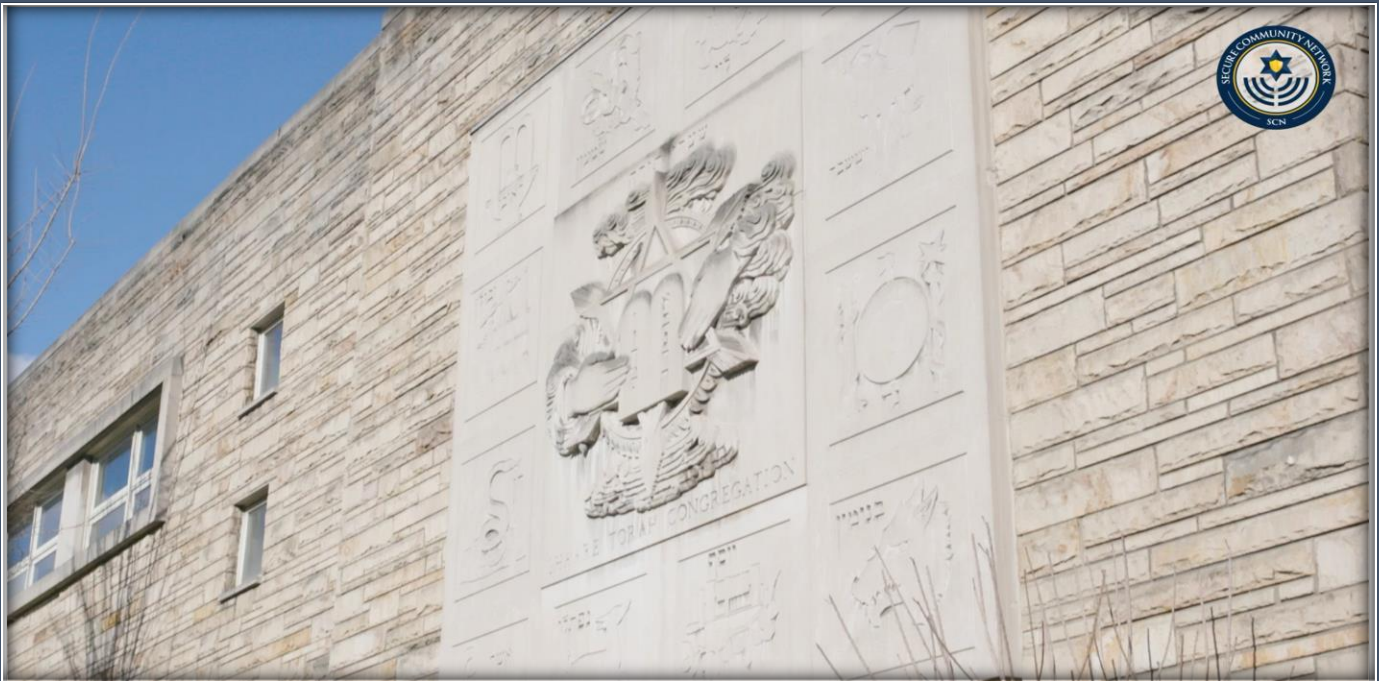
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## Additional Information

None



This video provides an overview of the SCN mission and goals. Based on time constraints, the video may not be played during the course, but you may use this link to view the video at any time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoYUlvOSyg4>

- The Jewish community has faced threats for the better part of 3,000 years. Today, here in the United States, those risks are at an all-time high. For that reason, community members and leaders must anticipate the threat and prepare themselves and their organizations for the inevitability of violence.
- To mitigate that risk, SCN serves as a multifaceted resource for the entire Jewish community. SCN focuses strictly on the safety and security of the Jewish community: working with communities on intelligence and information sharing, conducting vulnerability assessments and improving the levels of safety and security of communities across North America.
- Community-level empowerment and individual awareness is the only way that the Jewish community will continue to not just survive but thrive as a community.



The Secure Community Network is comprised of security experts from the military and law enforcement with national and homeland security backgrounds who have dedicated their lives through service to protecting our country and now the Jewish community.

# Active Threat Plan



Security vs. safety



Where will we evacuate to?



Where will we shelter in place?



Who will activate 911 or equivalent?



Who has formal medical training?

- **Safety vs. Security.** There is a difference between security and safety, although both are critical to the well-being of a community. Today, we will focus on security issues—specifically active threat scenarios—and examine specific facets of security and protection.
- **Firearms.** One option that the Jewish community is examining and employing is the use of firearms, which can be an effective way to counter active threats.
  - ✓ The use of firearms presents significant safety concerns. They must only be used by people with proper **T**\_\_\_\_\_ because without training and experience, there is significant **L**\_\_\_\_\_ and unnecessary risk to the welfare of congregants.
- **Evacuation.** We need a route that gets us outside fast. When we plan evacuations, having an **A**\_\_\_\_\_ route is very important!
- **Shelter in Place.** The best shelter location will be defensible, conceal us, and protect us from **B**\_\_\_\_\_.
- **Call 911.** Plan for: Who, When, Where, and How.
  - **Medical Training.** Saving the lives of people injured in an active threat attack requires:
    - knowing who has formal training.
    - personal training and practice.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

None



# Course Objectives



## **COMMIT** TO ACTION

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

9

- The primary goal of this training is to reinforce the importance of **COMMIT TO ACTION**.
- A commitment to action occurs when you:
  1. Develop a R\_\_\_\_\_ mindset.
  2. Possess the W\_\_\_\_\_ to act.
- Commit to Act = **Better chance of surviving active threat events.**

### Notes



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### Additional Information

None



# Learning Objectives

After completing this course, you will:

- ✓ Know the definition of an *active threat*
- ✓ Know the difference between security and safety
- ✓ Have a better understanding of *active threat* incidents
- ✓ Identify and explain modes of action during an *active threat* incident: *Run, Hide, Fight*
- ✓ Understand how to prepare for an *active threat* incident
- ✓ Know how to respond to law enforcement's arrival
- ✓ Recognize the importance of additional trainings such as *STOP THE BLEED*
- ✓ Be able to commit to action during an *active threat* incident

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

10

- An active threat event has far-reaching negative effects on the community, and the objective of this training is to mitigate the losses experienced by such an event.
- There are distinct differences between security and safety, and this training will explain how to prepare.
- The training today includes the Run, Hide, Fight model of active threat response. The intent of the training is to provide you with knowledge that will influence your thoughts and behaviors in key decision-making moments during an active threat incident.
- Interaction with law enforcement is crucial, and the training will explain what to do when it arrives.
- Emergency medical response like STOP THE BLEED is key to the survival of active threat victims who have suffered life-threatening injury during an attack.

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## Additional Information

None



# Definition

The FBI defines an **active shooter** as "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area."



**i** This is identified and referred to throughout this course as an **active threat**

"Active threat" encompasses all forms of threat:

- **Firearms:** In 2018, there were 47,220 firearm incidents in the United States, resulting in 12,000+ deaths.
- **Edged Weapons:** In 2018, there were 123,253 knife or other cutting-instrument crimes in the United States.
- **Ramming Attacks:** Trending terrorist threat to crowds and public gatherings.
- **Explosives – Arson:** In 2018, there were 289 bombings and 17,968 explosive-related incidents.
- **Suicide Bombers:** A person-borne IED provides attackers with **M**\_\_\_\_\_ and **P**\_\_\_\_\_.
- **Physical Attacks/Crimes Against Persons:** In 2018, of the 5,566 victims of hate crimes, 46 percent were intimidation, 34 percent were simple assault, and 18.4 percent were aggravated assault.

## MOST COMMON THREAT



From 2000 to present day, more than 250 terrorist attacks in the United States involved an incendiary device of some sort, resulting in \$177M in property damage.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- START, "Trends in Global Terrorism"
- FBI 2018 Hate Crime Statistics
- Statista. "Number of Aggravated Assaults in the U.S. in 2018, by Weapons Used"
- San Jose State University, An Analysis of Vehicle Ramming as a Terrorist Tactic"
- JCAT VBIED Tool

# The Attacker



- No "profile"
- Mental health consumer
- Emotional leakage/broadcast

Situational awareness is the ability to detect suspicious behavior/report that behavior before an attack occurs.

- **No Profile:** There is no single attacker profile.
- **Mental health consumer:** Most attackers are affected by drivers. In some instances, those are related to mental health, but other drivers are racial, R\_\_\_\_\_, or P\_\_\_\_\_ biases.
- **Emotional leakage or broadcasting:** Describes how most attackers telegraph intent:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of school-related homicides are perpetrated by students who displayed some type of warning sign.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of school shootings were known by other students beforehand as a planned event.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of active shooters had an identifiable mental illness.

## CONCERNING BEHAVIORS



FBI: "Every active shooter with mental illness exhibited 4 to 5 concerning behaviors that would have been discernable to the people around them."

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- American Academy of Family Physicians, "Don't Blame Mental Illness for Mass Shootings"
- FBI Active Shooter Study 2000-2013
- American Psychiatric Association, "Mass Shootings and Mental Illness"
- Naval Postgraduate School, "Preventing School Shootings: A Public Health Approach to Gun Violence"



#### SOURCE: ALERRT Institute, Texas State University

- Animated graphic that represents attacks in the United States.
- 2000–2019 overview of active threats nationwide: 347 firearm, knife, or vehicle attacks.
- There has been an increase in threats against the Jewish community, although this data is not representative of anti-Semitic attacks.
- **Remember:** With the saturation of active threats across the country, there is no place that is unaffected or will not be affected in the future.
- Discard the thought: “*This is a quiet community: that type of thing would N\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_.*”

This thinking demonstrates a lack of awareness and preparedness.

#### CONCERNING TREND



ALERRT: “Three deadly attacks occurred against the Jewish community in 2019.”

#### Notes




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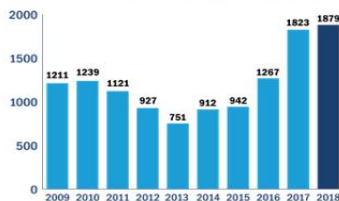
#### Additional Information/Sources

- Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERTT)  
<https://activeattackdata.org/allattacks.html>

# Targeting the Jewish Community

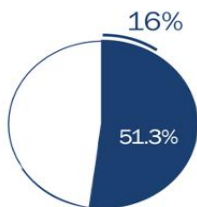


Anti-Semitic Incidents: U.S.  
Over the Last Decade | 2009-2018



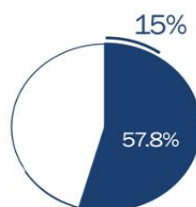
- From 2016 to 2017, there was a 44% increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents
- The number of victims of anti-Semitic assault almost tripled from 2017 to 2018, from 21 to 59

Source: ADL



- 2015 | 51.3% of religious bias hate crimes were motivated by an anti-Jewish bias, with 16% of those occurring at a house of worship

Source: FBI



- 2018 | 57.8% of religious bias hate crimes were motivated by anti-Jewish bias, with 15% of those occurring at a house of worship

Source: FBI

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

14

- Metrics encompass crimes against the Jewish community that range from criminal damage to murder
- Nationally, 58% of all religiously-motivated hate crimes were anti-Semitic in nature
  - Highest level in decades and 3x higher than the next religious group
- In 2019, 2,107 anti-Semitic incidents recorded in the United States – the highest number on record
  - 12% increase from 2018
  - 56% increase in physical assaults
  - 270 anti-Semitic incidents attributed to known extremist groups or individuals inspired by extremist ideology
- Over 80% of law enforcement agencies report no hate crimes, to include 70 cities with populations of 100,000+

## NEW CONTRIBUTOR TO THREAT



COVID-19 has led to a worldwide focus on the Jewish community as the population responsible for the pandemic. Increased use of social media throughout the crisis will likely amplify the conspiracy theory.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- FBI 2018 Hate Crime Statistics
- ADL 2019 Audit & HEAT Tracker  
<https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-heat-map>

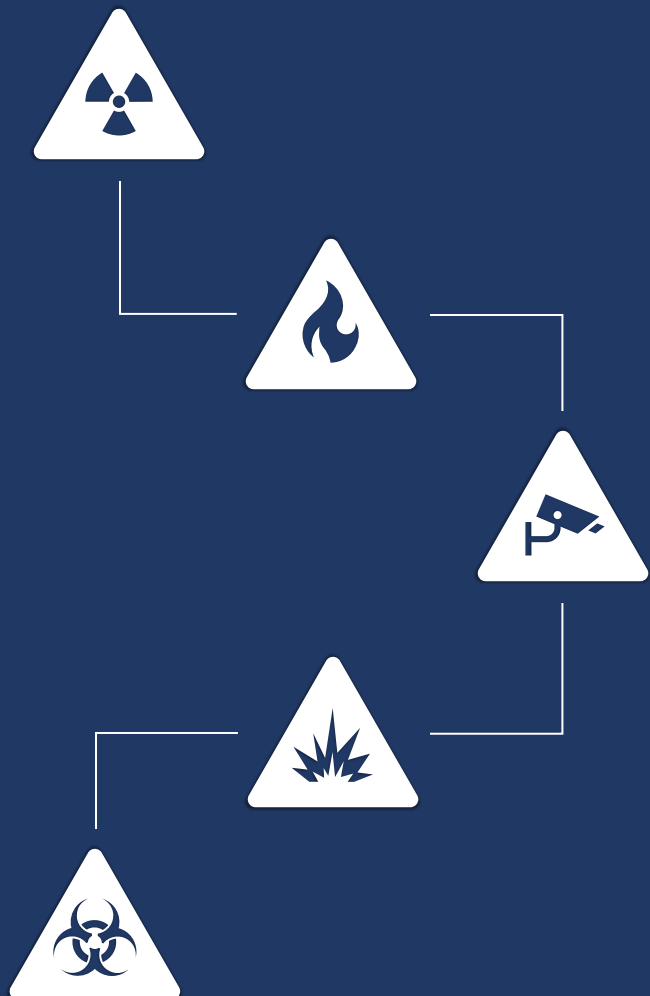
# Active Threats: Where They Occur & Types

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

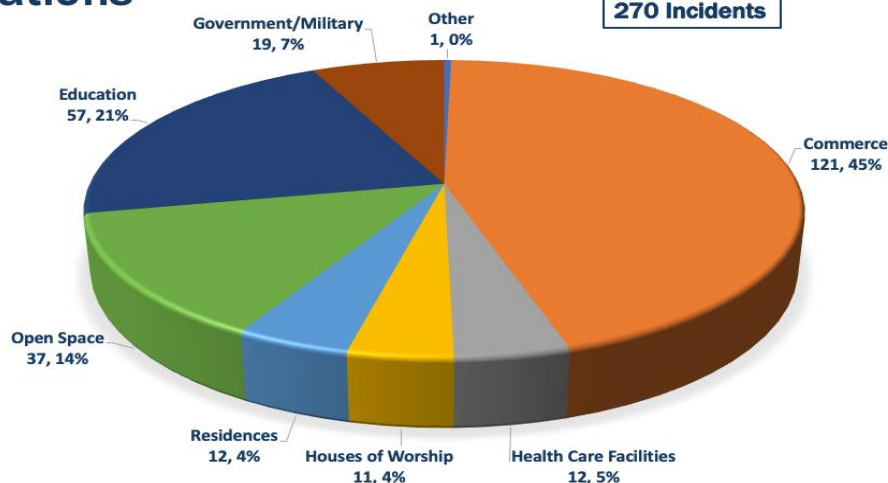
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This portion of the training takes a closer look at the types of active threats and where those incidents occur.





# 2000–2018 Active Threat Locations



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COMMIT TO ACTION

16

## SOURCE: FBI

- Mapping 277 incidents throughout the country, prioritized by percentage of times that category was targeted:
  - Commerce – 45%
  - Education – 21%
  - Open spaces – 14%
  - Government and Military – 7%
  - Houses of Worship – 4% ✓
  - Health Care – 5%
  - Residences – 4% ✓

- ✓ The factor that often separates houses of worship and private residences from other locations is the general lack of security infrastructure. Each of the other categories, generally, and to some degree, has armed/trained police, soldiers or dedicated security in place.

## THINKING AHEAD



**SCN:** Studying criminal trends should not increase our fears. By identifying and understanding certain trends and behaviors, we can become better prepared to address them..

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- FBI, "Quick Look: Active Shooter Incidents in the United States" <https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-incidents-graphics>



# Orlando, Florida

## Pulse Nightclub

June 12, 2016

**49** Dead

**58** Injured

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

17-18

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass shooting, active shooter
- **Attacker:** 29-year-old male, security guard w/firearms license
- **Motivation:** Religious extremist, sexual bias
- **Attack duration:** 11 minutes

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

You may not recognize the sound of gunfire. Be prepared to help yourself. Escape by any means necessary. Don't play dead. Take advantage of attacker distraction. EMS may be delayed while police clear.



### Notes



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### Additional Information

- DOJ, "Rescue, Response, and Resilience: A Critical Incident Review of the Orlando Public Safety Response to the Attack on the Pulse Nightclub" <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-w0857-pub.pdf>





# Las Vegas, Nevada

## Route 91 Harvest Music Festival

October 21, 2017

**58 Dead**

**869 Injured**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

19-20

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass shooting, active shooter
- **Attacker:** 64-year-old male, compulsive gambler with no criminal history and almost no LE contact. Referred to as "odd," "distant," "without emotion," and "a weird guy."
- **Motivation:** Not known
- **Target:** 22,000 attendees, Harvest Music Festival
- **Attack duration:** 10 minutes, 1000+ rounds fired (24 firearms in room)
- **Distance:** 490 yards from window to target

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

People did not recognize (and some misidentified) the sound of gunfire. People acted out of blind fear in illogical ways. Misinformation caused chaos. Eighty percent of all injured persons transported themselves to the hospital.



### Notes



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### Additional Information

- *The Cut*, "Before and After the Las Vegas Shooting: A Survivor's Story"
- *The New Yorker*, "I Realized I Was Probably Going to Die There": Surviving the Las Vegas Shooting"



# New York City, New York

## Hudson River Park Bicycle Path

October 31, 2017

**8 Dead**  
**11 Injured**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

21-22

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Vehicle ramming
- **Attacker:** 29-year-old male, immigrated to the U.S. in 2010 on Diversity Immigrant visa (*second attacker who was granted this visa*) and permanent green card resident at time of attack. College-educated accountant who also had worked as Uber driver and tractor-trailer commercial driver.
- **Motivation:** Murder for Islamic State, anti-U.S.
- **Attack duration:** 1 mile along the bike path
- **Weapon type:** Rental truck
- **Planning:** 1 year



CEP: "Documented 49 vehicular terrorist attacks since 2006, collectively resulting in deaths of at least 197 people and the injury of at least 1,099 others."

### Notes



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### Additional Information

- Counter-Extremism Project (CEP), "Vehicles as Weapons of Terror" [https://www.counterextremism.com/sites/default/files/Vehicles%20as%20Weapons%20of%20Terror\\_042920.pdf](https://www.counterextremism.com/sites/default/files/Vehicles%20as%20Weapons%20of%20Terror_042920.pdf)



# Jewish Community Active Attack Events

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

23

This section looks at attacks that specifically targeted the Jewish community.

2020 has seen a surge in the targeting of the Jewish community, and it is a nationwide problem:

- June 12 – Ellensburg, Washington
- June 13 – Lacey Township, New Jersey
- June 13 – Nashville, Tennessee
- June 13 – West Allis, Wisconsin
- June 13 – Daniel Island, South Carolina
- June 13 – Huntsville, Alabama
- June 14 – Santa Rosa, California
- June 14 – Coos Bay, Oregon
- June 14 – Mendota Heights, Minnesota
- June 19 – Carson City, Nevada
- June 21 – Little Rock, Arkansas
- June 21 – Groton, Massachusetts
- June 22 – Providence, Rhode Island
- June 24 – Baltimore, Maryland
- June 25 – Chicago, Illinois



# Overland Park, Kansas

## Jewish Community Campus & Village Shalom Retirement Community

April 13, 2014

3 Dead



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COMMIT TO ACTION

24-25

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass shooting, active shooter
- **Attacker:** 73-year-old male with 40+ years of white supremacy/ideology and membership. Ran for public office several times.
- **Motivation:** White supremacy, anti-Semitism
- **Target:** Pedestrians in parking lot, cars entering lot, fired at the building
- **Medical response:** Staff unsuccessfully attempted lifesaving medical procedures
- **Planning:** 1 year

### SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



In a media interview, the attacker advised that he:

- 1) frequented the Jewish Community Center
- 2) knew for a year he would attack the location
- 3) had gone to the Jewish Community Center three times in the hours prior to the attack

### Notes



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### Additional Information

None



# Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha Congregation

October 27, 2018

**11 Dead**

**6 Injured**

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

26-27

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass shooting, hate crime, active shooter, barricaded gunman
- **Attacker:** 46-year-old male, neighbors described him as "a ghost," and he "rarely interacted with others." Extensive social media activity.
- **Motivation:** Anti-Semitism
- **Attack duration:** 78 minutes
- **Recognition of attack:** Shots were thought to be a coat rack falling
- **Disposition:** 55 federal/state felonies
- **Other support:** Training sponsored by Federation provided less than 8 weeks prior.

### Notes



### LESSON LEARNED



Of the 13 worshippers in the chapel, 4 escaped through a side door and 8 remained. Those who remained were all shot, seven fatally.

**Apply Run, Hide, Fight**

### Additional Information

- American College of Emergency Physicians, "After Action Report and Lessons Learned – Tree of Life Synagogue – Pittsburgh, PA" <https://www.acep.org/how-we-serve/sections/tactical-emergency-medicine/news/may-2019/after-action-report-and-lessons-learned-tree-of-life-synagogue--pittsburgh-pa/>





# Poway, California

## Chabad of Poway

April 27, 2019

**1** Dead  
**3** Injured

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

28-29

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass attack, active shooter
- **Attacker:** 19-year-old male, nursing student at California State. No contact w/police, no known membership w/white supremacists, intense social media involvement.
- **Motivation:** Hate, notoriety, anti-Semitism, white supremacy, white genocide conspiracy
- **Attack duration:** 90 seconds
- **Planning:** 4 weeks
- **Inspiration:** Shooters in Pittsburgh and Christchurch attacks, Jesus, Adolph Hitler, Paul the Apostle, Martin Luther, Beethoven

### TRANSITION TO VIOLENCE



Attacker's evolution to terrorist attributed, in part, to a gaming and YouTube relationship with a hugely popular internet icon who occasionally espoused anti-Semitic beliefs. That relationship led him to 8chan, an alt-right hate site/network.

### Notes



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### Additional Information

- Attacker attempted to burn down a mosque the week prior
- *New York Intelligencer*, "What We Know About the Southern California Shooting"
- ADL, "Deadly Shooting at California Chabad Highlights Threat to Jewish Houses of Worship"



# Jersey City, New Jersey

## Jersey City Kosher Supermarket

December 10, 2019

**4 Dead**  
**3 Injured**

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

30-31

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Siege, active shooter, crime spree
- **Attacker:** 47-year-old male and 50-year-old female
- **Motivation:** Anti-Semitism, white supremacy, anti-law enforcement
- **Attack duration:** 1 hour, thousands of rounds fired
- **Weapon type:** Rifles w/suppressors, large and small explosives (pipe bomb), handguns
- **Planning:** Drove around Jewish neighborhoods, surveilled market numerous times prior to the attack

#### **RUN + FIGHT**



**+ RUN**

Shopper inside store attempted to run out after the first attacker entered, only to run into the second attacker. Swept the arms and gun barrel away as the second attacker tried to shoot him point blank. Fled from the store under heavy gunfire. Survived.

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### Additional Information

- *CBS This Morning*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-3y5bnPo2I>





# Monsey, New York

## Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg's Residence

December 28, 2019

**1 Dead**  
**4 Injured**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

32-33

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Stabbing
- **Attacker:** 37-year-old male with history of mental illness, hospitalization, schizophrenia. Arrested 7 times since 2001, imprisoned for drugs, punched a police horse in 2018.
- **Motivation for the attack:** Anti-Semitism
- **Attack duration:** 2 minutes
- **Weapon type:** Ozark machete (sword)
- **Broadcasting:** Suspected stabbing of Orthodox man 1 month prior
- **Planning:** Not known

### **BEST REPORTING ACTION**



One person at the residence had the presence of mind to obtain the attacker's license plate. Police stopped the car 1 hour later, 30 miles away.

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### Additional Information

- **NBC New York**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSWMpkJN11s>



# Gilroy, California

## Gilroy Garlic Festival

July 28, 2019

**3 Dead**

**17 Injured**



34-35

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Type of attack:** Mass shooting, active shooter, open-air attack
- **Attacker:** 19-year-old male
- **Motivation:** Unknown ("Because I am really angry"). Explored violent ideologies including Islamist extremism and white supremacy.
- **Weapon type:** Semi auto rifle, 5 magazines/40 rounds each, 75-drum mag
- **Legality of weapon:** Purchased in Nevada 3 weeks prior to attack, banned under California law
- **Method of attack:** Cut hole in perimeter fence, wore body armor, fired randomly into the crowd
- **Broadcasting:** Attacker created an Instagram account hours prior to the attack and posted a photo with a caption instructing people to read the novel *Might Is Right* by Ragnar Redbeard.



### **POLICE RESPONSE TIME**

Within 60 seconds of the start of the attack, police shot the attacker several times.

### Notes



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### Additional Information

*Might Is Right* advocates amorality, rejects conventional ideas such as human/natural rights and argues that only strength and physical might establish moral right. It is anti-Semitic, attacks Christianity/democracy and espouses master-slave morality and herd mentality—asserting that weakness should be regarded with hatred.

"It was nearing the end of a set . . . all of a sudden I heard these loud popping noises. That's when I heard a man scream, "Those are real! Those are real!" I immediately started running . . . I made sure the people I was with were near me. A year prior, I was taught about what to do in an active shooter situation at the 105th AEPI convention . . . I was able to be a leader in that situation with a calm and collected mind . . . It's crucial that brothers of this fraternity get this kind of training so that they may become leaders too. This is a reality that we all live in . . . I thank Hashem for protecting me, but I also thank AEPI for being that resource for me which ended up saving my life."

### AEPI Fraternity Member and SCN-Trained Survivor

### The survivor statement and situation demonstrate the following:



#### *"loud popping noises"*

- We may not immediately recognize gunfire.



#### *"immediately started running"*

- With training, the mind can identify the threat and move to the action phase more quickly.



#### *"made sure people were with me"*

- Because of his training, he was in a better position to help others.



#### *"A leader in the situation"*

- Preparedness puts us in the position to demonstrate leadership.



#### *"calm and collected mind"*

- Training maps our mind to the possibility of violence; when it occurs, our mind doesn't have to process as much.

### Notes




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### Additional Information

None

# 3-5 Minutes to Survive

## The Factors

How quickly  
law enforcement  
arrives



Target availability

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

37

### 3-5 Minutes to Survive

- Not intended to cause additional fear, only to set a level of response expectations and place the emphasis on your survival.
- This makes you a **C**\_\_\_\_\_ first responder in an active threat event.
- The extent of an attack's impact is based entirely on two factors:



#### ✓ Law enforcement response time

The amount of time it takes for the police to get to the attacker.



#### ✓ Target availability

The number of people an assailant can attack before the police stop the violence.

### Notes




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### Additional Information

None



# 3-5 Minutes to Survive



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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

38

Many studies have been completed that provide comprehensive analysis on all aspects of active threat events in the hopes of better preparing law enforcement and citizens for surviving such an event. Some notable findings include:

- From 2000-2018, there were 277 active shooter incidents where 884 people were killed and 1,546 wounded
- In 2019, there were 28 active shooter incidents resulting in 247 casualties (97 killed; 150 wounded—to include 2 law enforcement officers killed and 15 wounded)
  - 15 offenders captured by police; 9 killed by police; 5 committed suicide
  - 15% of attackers wore body armor
- Average police response of **3 minutes**  
**60%** of active threats end before police arrive  
**36%** of active threats end in 2 minutes
- **Texas State University research:**  
**91%** of attackers used firearms between 2000-2019  
**33%** of attackers carried multiple weapons



In your mental and physical conditioning, prepare to stay alive for **5 minutes** by any means necessary.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- FBI, "A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013"
- USSS NTAC, "Mass Attacks in Public Spaces-2019"
- University at Albany, SUNY, "Analysis of the Police Response to Mass Shootings in the U.S. between 1966 and 2016"

## Your Response

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT** TO ACTION

39

The next module will focus on the actions you will take during an active threat event and the physiological and psychological responses you can expect with this level of stress.





# Active Threat Incidents: Commit to Action

- 1** Overcome “it will never happen here” mindset
- 2** Do have a plan, individually and organizationally
- 3** Do develop the plan before the incident
- 4** Collaborate & communicate with law enforcement
- 5** Share & practice the plan with law enforcement

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

40

In planning for survival, we must first understand the reality of protecting ourselves from active threats;

1. “It will N\_\_\_\_\_ H\_\_\_\_\_ here” is something people often say before and after an attack occurs. No one wants to believe that these types of events occur, but they do.
2. **Have a plan.** An active threat response plan must address each facet of our security condition: deterrence and detection (*before the attack*), response (*during the attack*) and mitigation (*after the attack*).
3. **Put your plan in place before the incident occurs.** In the case of active threats, any delay in building and implementing a plan may have serious consequences.
4. **Collaborate with law enforcement.** There are two parts to active threat response: 1) what we do, and; 2) what the police do. By collaborating with law enforcement, communities provide police with a better understanding of our structures and capabilities.



5. **Practice the plan.** A plan is notional—a best guess—until we practice. During practice we discover what works and what does not work.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None



# Active Threat Incidents: Commit to Action



## **COMMIT TO ACTION**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

41

### Commit to Action

- This is the objective of the training today. Conditioning your mind to believe that it can happen here is a good step, but it's not enough. Having a plan is good, but it's not enough. In the end, we must commit to action.
- **Commit to Action.** Our sincere hope for the Jewish community members who learn the principles of Run, Hide, Fight is for them to gather enough information to be informed and make the commitment well in advance of an active threat incident.
- In the moment violence occurs, there is just one choice: **ACT** or **DO NOT ACT**.



#### KEY TO SURVIVAL

A key piece to the survival puzzle is mindset. Without a proper mindset, Run, Hide, Fight is only conceptual. Decide today.

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

### Notes



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### Additional Information

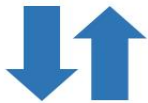
None

# Stages of Disaster Response

**Fight**



**Flight**



**Freeze**



**Natural Disaster**

**68%** think preparation helps  
**51%** think they can respond



**Disease Outbreak**

**56%** think preparation helps  
**35%** think they can respond



**Act of Violence**

**47%** think preparation helps  
**22%** think they can respond

**Denial**



**Deliberation**



**Decisive Act**

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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

42

Our actions—and often our very survival—are based in the physiology and psychology of how we process stress.

- Initially, when we're faced with sudden violence:
  - FIGHT** - Without thought, your first reaction is to aggressively address the threat.
  - FLIGHT** - Without thought, your first reaction is to distance yourself from the threat.
  - FREEZE** - There is no thought and no reaction, either defensive or aggressive.
- Then we can expect to experience:
  - Denial.** Senses are overloaded. The brain is trying to catch up, trying to associate the current event with a past event.
  - Deliberation.** We recognize something bad is happening and begin to process options, answers, and solutions. Deliberation may take seconds or minutes. This is where we want you to recall Run, Hide, Fight training.
  - Decisive Act.** A moment that follows Denial and Deliberation, where a solution is developed and we act on it. Research shows that even basic thought processing in this moment is very difficult.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- Dr. Amanda Ripley, *The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes—and Why*
- FEMA, "Lessons from Survivors" <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/preptalks>

# Untrained vs. Trained?

Having a plan and understanding your surroundings and environment **before** an emergency occurs are paramount



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

43

## • Untrained Response

**Disbelief** = Having context to grasp that a bad thing is happening, but inability to process it fully.

**Denial** = Inability of the mind to adjust to this new reality, or to process events in real time.

**Panic** = Reality sets in, and blind fear follows. The mind processes all options simultaneously.

**Paralysis** = When the overwhelming nature of the event prevents processing options, and the brain shuts down, limbs won't work and tunnel vision sets in.

## • Trained Response

**Anxious** = Fear sets in, but is immediately translated into action thoughts.

**Recall** = Like a hunted animal, the brain starts searching for survival options.

**Prepare** = The development of a quick plan of action and communication with others.

**Act** = You made the commitment a long time ago; now there is only ACT.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

None

# Denial



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

44

This is what denial looks like during an attack. There are many lessons to be learned from this incident:

1. **Instincts:** Be aware of your surroundings. If your instincts tell you to leave . . . **LISTEN.**
2. **Run:** Denial will get you hurt. When the opportunity exists, leave your things and go. **DO NOT HESITATE.**
3. **Fight:** The rule of thumb for striking attackers is to separate them from the weapon. If you decide to strike them . . . **INTEND SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.**
4. **One for all, all for one:** When someone decides to fight, others must assist. If not, that person is in serious jeopardy. Use the swarm technique and **OVERWHELM.**
5. **Communication:** Buying time by talking is a great survival tactic, but **DO NOT ARGUE.**
6. **Threats:** Nonchalance can cause victims to believe the threat is not real. If an attacker says he intends to kill you . . . **BELIEVE HIM AND ACT ON HIS WORDS.**
7. **Agitation/Escalation:** If attacker actions suggest he might be working his nerve up . . . **PAY ATTENTION TO BEHAVIOR.**
8. **ACT:** If an attacker levels a firearm at you, there is nothing to be gained by waiting for him to fire. Duck, run, crawl, attack; do something . . . anything. **DO NOT WAIT TO BE SHOT.**

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- WMBB, "Florida School Board Shooting" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQjQOIJvMzE>
- WJHG News, "Shooting at Bay District School Board" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suVpRNer3EQ>
- CBS News, "School Board Shooting Survivors" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPjvegeURIA>

# Deliberation



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

45

As Denial passes, Deliberation sets in. This is a short cellphone video shot by a concertgoer attending the Las Vegas music festival that we discussed earlier. The visual quality is poor, but the important part is the audio. Listen for the deliberation vocalized by people lying on the ground. They are calculating cause, options and solutions simultaneously:

- *"Is it fireworks?"*
- *"Those are (expletive) fake gunshots."*
- *"Is it a speaker issue?"*
- *"Should we run?"*
- *"Just (expletive) GO!"*
- *"Everyone is down."*
- *"We can't go yet"*
- *"I'm leaving, Michael!"*

If you get to the point where you are processing the question, "Should I run?", you should already be running. Your subconscious has interjected that choice as evidence that something is very possibly wrong, and flight is your best option.

## Notes



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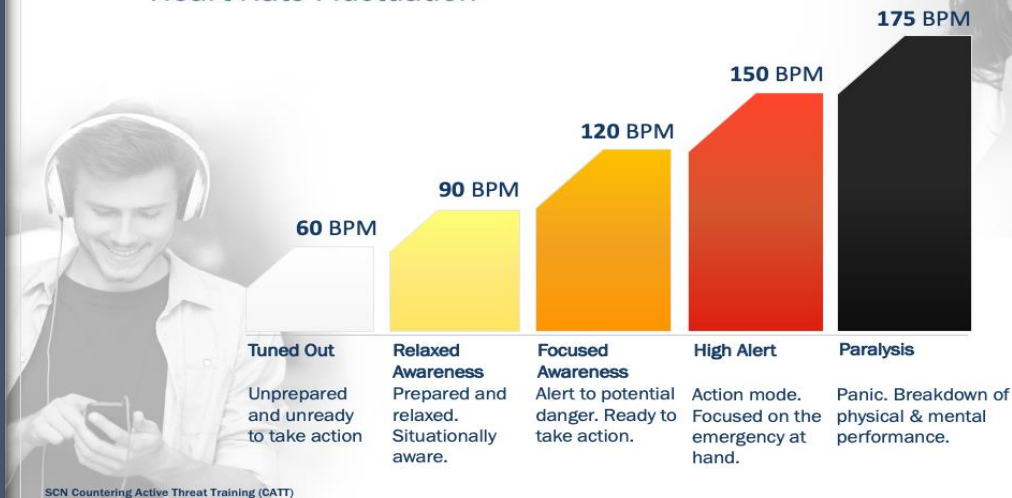
## Additional Information

None



# Five Levels of Situational Awareness

## Heart Rate Fluctuation



46

Our reaction to sudden sounds—the startling sounds of tires screeching, glass breaking, shots being fired—and/or the sudden recognition of violence can be measured by physiological evolution that occurs in our bodies. The above chart is a way of visualizing the process.

- If WHITE represented this place and time, we could generally assume a resting heart rate of around 60 beats per minute (BPM), and there is no physiological response.
- With escalating fear, our heartbeat dramatically increases. At one end is perhaps a falling object, and at the other end of the spectrum, a gunshot in the dark. At all points along the spectrum we might experience predictable, physiological effects.



*Fear is always there; it's a survival instinct. You just need to know how to manage it.*

Jimmy Chin  
World-class solo climber

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Lt. Grossman Color Chart  
<http://emcrit.org/podcasts/emcrit-book-club-on-combat-by-grossman/>

# Stress Response



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

47

- This is CCTV video footage of the Hypercacher kosher food supermarket in Paris, where a terrorist is actively shooting people.
- It is important to note the way stress affects our ability to execute simple tasks. The mother in center screen has functioned the seat release for her child's stroller many times but under stress, she is unable to get it to work.
- Look at the rest of the people in the video: falling, slamming into one another, running in circles. Prior to this incident, they would not think of knocking down a mother with a baby. This is what blind fear looks like.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Time, "Kosher Grocery Confirms Worst Fears of French Jews"  
<https://time.com/3661697/paris-terror-attack-kosher-grocery-jewish/>

# Stress Response



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

48

- This is the same incident, same market, different CCTV angle. Watch the response of the woman in blue. She deliberately plays dead.
- Our recommendation is that you rely on the three options that best guarantee survivability: Run, Hide, Fight. Many times, even when people play dead, they get shot.
- Playing dead is not a proactive strategy.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Deliberation



SCN Counteracting Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

49



With trauma, people enter a fight, flight, or freeze state. The brain can become disorganized and overwhelmed while the body goes into survival mode, shutting down the higher reasoning and language structures of the brain.

Anxiety increases breathing and heart rate. This very physical response concentrates blood flow to our brain and prepares us to face an intense situation. If it gets too intense, we might start to feel nauseated or weak in the knees. Controlled breathing is the key to slowing the racing in our brain. The more oxygenated our blood, the more oxygen reaches our brain.



Fight or flight is the body's way of protecting itself by producing the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline so that we are ready to fight or run. Because our brain is focused on the source of the stress, voluntary muscles may become paralyzed and sensory perceptions may be altered. When muscles come back into action, it is time to **RUN** or **FIGHT**.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

Just remember: Take slow deep breaths, hold your breath for a second or two, then exhale. This is a technique used by police tactical teams, professional fighters, and even military special forces as they anticipate conflict.





# Hide & Hope



2025 Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

Photo courtesy of ALENET, Texas State University

COMMIT TO ACTION

50

## HIDE

Many untrained people employ a tactic we call “Hide and Hope”: they hide under their desk and hope that the attacker does not find them. Being unaware of the considerations covered in this training, their hiding location is more likely to trap them and/or will not provide them with any protection from threat.

## HOPE

With great frequency—particularly in faith-based communities—people subscribe to prayer or their beliefs to save them in an incident. Unfortunately, many people with unquestionable faith have been killed during active threat incidents. While we subscribe to personal beliefs and a higher power, we can back that up with good planning, the proper mindset, and the commitment to act.

## HIDING LOCATIONS



When identifying a hiding location, keep these in mind:

- 1) *Will the threat reach me here?*
- 2) *If the attacker approaches from a different direction, will they see me?*
- 3) *Can I escape if I need to?*

## Notes



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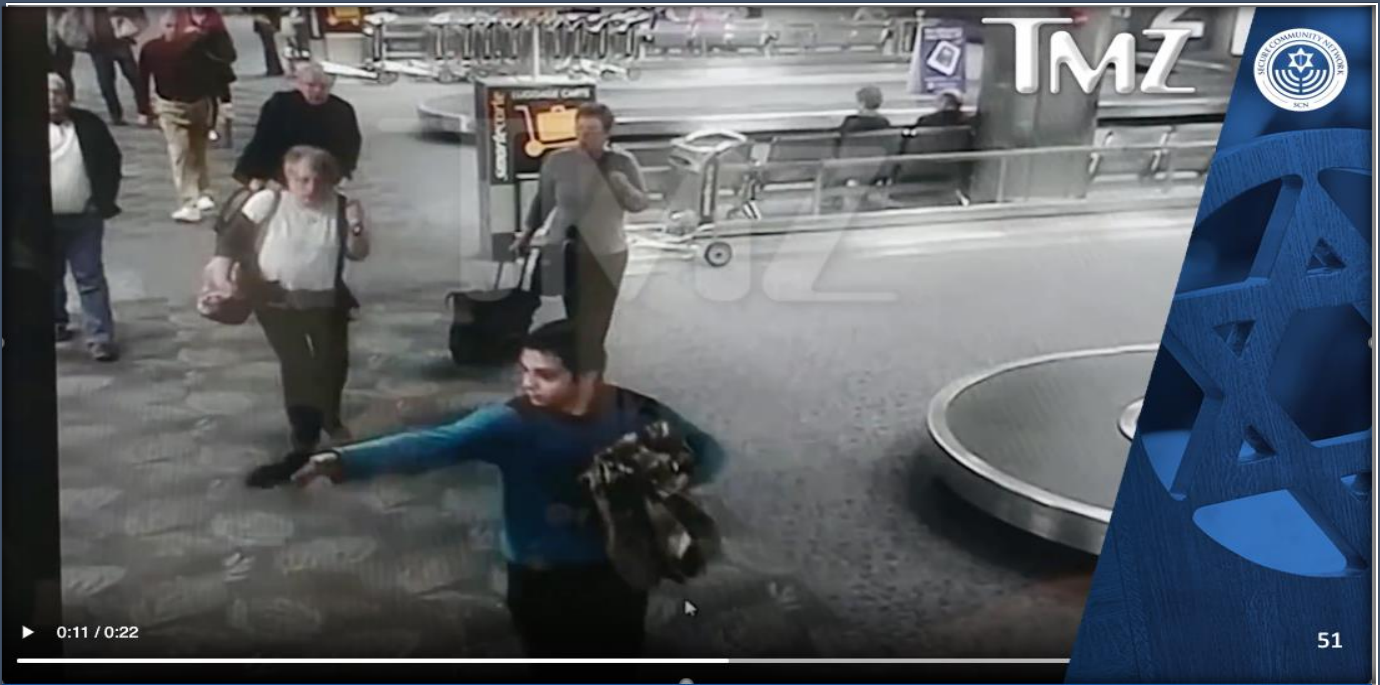
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## Additional Information

None





A video of a shooting at the Ft. Lauderdale Airport on Jan 3, 2017, shows the real-time reaction of people to an active shooter. Please jot down your observations of how people use Run, Hide, Fight.

### LESSONS LEARNED

#### RUN

If you're going to run, get some distance! Taking three steps does not constitute running. The man in the white shirt provides you with an example of what it looks like to freeze in the middle of a shooting.

#### HIDE

If you're going to hide, hide behind something that either conceals you completely or can stop a bullet. Hide can always be complemented by crawl.

#### FIGHT

Very few people would entertain fighting in this circumstance; there were multiple ways to run and/or hide.

### DROP IT AND RUN



Remember, it is easier to run or hide or fight if your hands are free.

### Notes




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### Additional Information

- TMZ, "Video of First Shots in Ft. Lauderdale Shooting" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC32b8FA\\_qs&bpctr=1590458286](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC32b8FA_qs&bpctr=1590458286)



# Blacksburg, Virginia

## Virginia Tech

April 16, 2007

**32** Dead

**23** Injured

Slides  
52-53

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- **Attack type:** Mass/active shooting w/handguns, lone gunman, threat of IED, barricaded subject
- **Victims:** 32 dead, 23 injured
- **Attack conclusion:** Attacker suicide
- **Attack duration:** 10–12 minutes (police arrived in 3 minutes, but the doors were chained shut)
- **Mental status:** Diagnosed w/severe depression, social anxiety, selective mutism
- **Attack motivation:** Self-aggrandizement/delusion, with both victim and savior complexes
- **Broadcasting:** Reported by several professors for disturbing writing/class behaviors; investigated by the university for stalking and harassment
- **Active Threat response by faculty and students:**

**RUN** | There were limited options to run. Teachers that looked out immediately came under attack

**HIDE** | There was nowhere to hide. The rooms and desks were small. Students flipped desks on their side and hugged them but were still in plain view

**FIGHT** | A valiant effort to fight was made by some—with various degrees of success

### Notes




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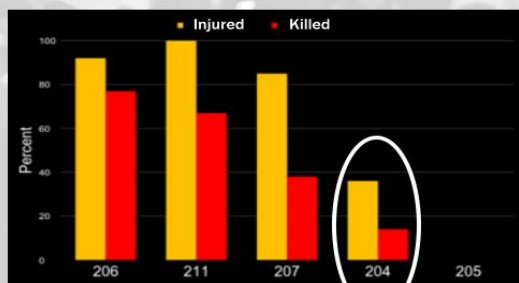
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### Additional Information

- City News, “Interview With VTech Survivor” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=np4wPpEz9I>
- Seattle Met, “A Virginia Tech Shooting Survivor on What It’s Like to Be a Witness” <https://www.seattlemet.com/news-and-city-life/2018/04/a-virginia-tech-massacre-survivor-on-what-it-s-like-to-be-a-witness>



# Blacksburg, Virginia



**Virginia Tech**  
Room 204

**22 Escaped**  
**2 Killed**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

54

This graph provides a visualization of the result of the actions by students during the attack.

206	211	207
Shooting started here, class caught by surprise.  Attacker walked down aisle, shooting.  Left and returned 2x to shoot more.	Pushed desk against door.  Attacker pushed past the desk and started shooting.  Left and returned to shoot more people.	No resistance.  When attacker returned, students pressed against the door.  Shots fired through door knob area – no one was hit.
204	205	
Barricaded door with desks and held door shut.  Shots fired through door.  Attempted to return.	Students used feet to block door.  Attacker shot through door but no hits and did not gain entry	

## FIGHT TO LIVE



When victims of active threat fight back, many live to earn the title **survivor**.

## Notes




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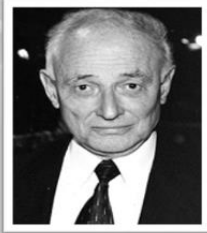
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## Additional Information

- Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center (ALERT)



# Blacksburg, Virginia



**Liviu Librescu**

- Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Holocaust Survivor

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

55

While SCN does not recommend putting yourself in harm's way, it is important to show you what decisive action looks like. At the same time, it provides the opportunity to give honorable mention to a hero in the Jewish community.

Liviu Librescu was a world-renowned scientist and engineer. He was a professor of engineering science and mechanics and was teaching class at the time of the Virginia Tech attack. As the attacker approached Librescu's lecture hall, the 76-year-old held the doors closed. The attacker shot Librescu through the door, but did not successfully enter the room. Most of the students escaped through a window. Librescu was shot five times but saved 21 lives that day.

A Holocaust survivor, Librescu sacrificed his life at Virginia Tech on the same day as Yom HaShoah, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

## Notes




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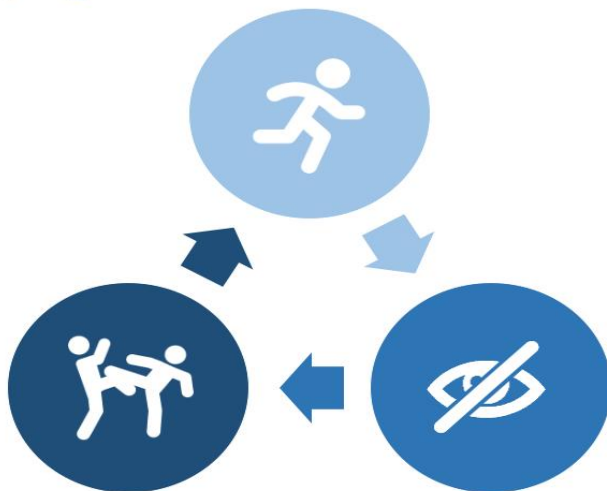
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## Additional Information

- ABC News, "Heroes in the Midst of Horror: Holocaust Survivor, Students Saved Others"  
<https://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=3049678&page=1>



# Run, Hide, Fight



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

56

SCN's highest priority is the preparedness of the Jewish community to survive an active shooter event. To this end, SCN endorses the nationally endorsed training: Run, Hide, Fight.

Using the Run, Hide, Fight model, you can begin to map a response to an active threat event.

The model seems to imply a process that is linear or sequential, but it is not.

- Example: If you recall the Virginia Tech event, at points during that attack, fight was first. Put yourself in the place of the teacher: you hear a noise, open the door to look out and assess the situation, and suddenly the attacker is in your face, pushing the door to gain entry and raising a firearm to shoot you . . . it is too late for run or hide.

During the fight phase, if we overwhelm the attacker or get past him, then run or hide might be the best options.



These response options are not linear. Your action is based on the situation.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

Tree of Life Survivor  
Q: If you would've stayed in the chapel, what would've happened?  
A: "I would be dead"  
Joe Charney



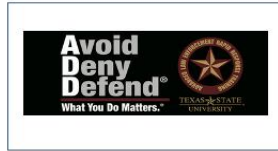
# Why This Model?

- National model recognized by federal, state and local law enforcement
- These actions are not sequential or linear
- Run, Hide, Fight means specific actions



## Run, Hide, Fight

Established in 2012  
and applies to everyone



## Avoid, Deny, Defend

Established in 2004  
and applies to everyone



## ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)

Established in 2001.  
Initially meant for schools  
but now used for all  
organizations

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

57

## Why is Run, Hide, Fight the best model?

There are several prominent active threat programs; you may have even attended similar training. SCN has worked to take the best-practice elements of the most respected programs, align them to the Jewish Community, and improve upon them. While different programs describe the actions one should take in various ways, SCN has chosen to adopt the Run, Hide, Fight language for three reasons:

- 1) It is the national model recognized by federal, state, and local law enforcement.
- 2) This model translates to clear, specific, easy-to-remember actions.
- 3) The actions are nonsequential or nonlinear. That means one step does not have to be completed for the next to occur—the model is based in the flexibility and unpredictability of an active threat situation.

Other models, such as ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and ADD (Avoid, Deny, Defend), are completely legitimate, effective, and current methodologies.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

- Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE)<sup>TM</sup>
- Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD)<sup>TM</sup>



# OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION RUN HIDE FIGHT



**RUN**



**HIDE**



**FIGHT**

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- Take note of at least two nearest exits in any facility you visit.
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door.
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door.
- As a last resort, attempt to take the active threat down. When the assailant is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.



**DHS  
Guidance**

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- *DHS, READY.gov*  
<https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>
- *DHS, Active Shooter Information Sheet*  
[https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/active-shooter\\_information-sheet.pdf](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/active-shooter_information-sheet.pdf)



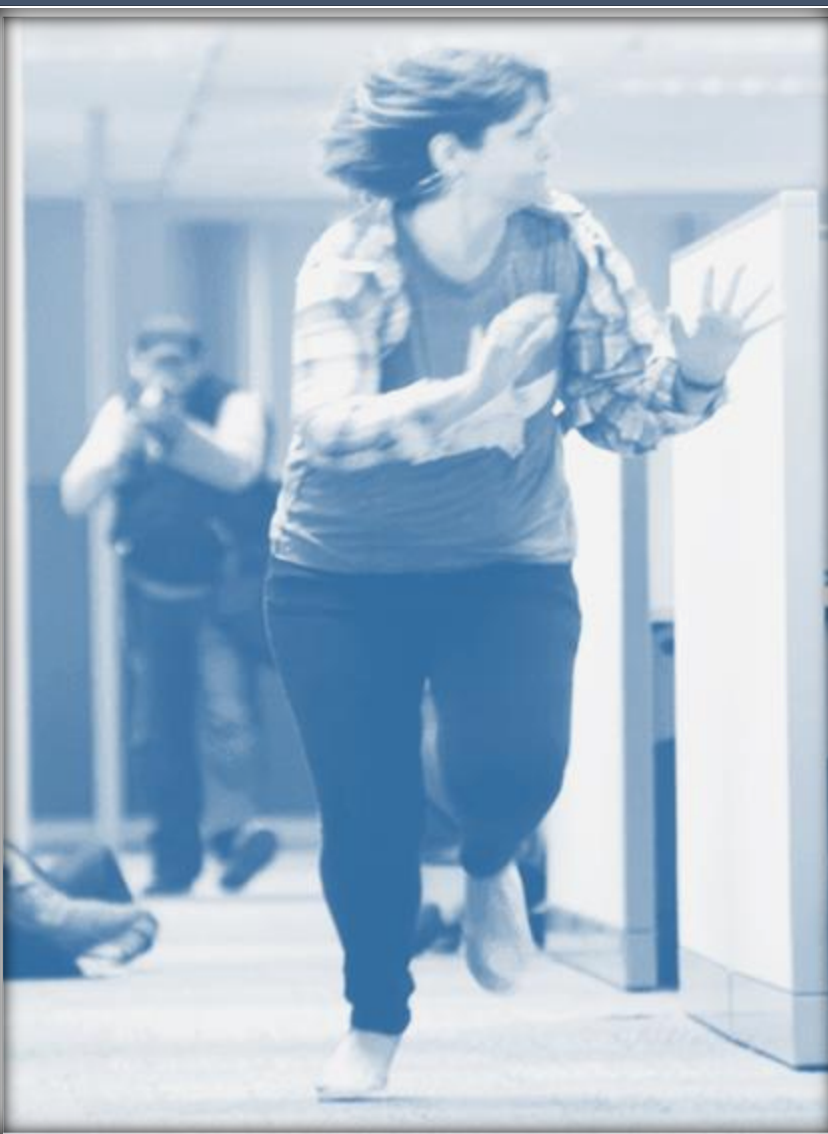
# Run

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT** TO ACTION






59

This module takes a closer look at some considerations that relate to the active threat response option to RUN.



# Run



-  **Know your exits**
-  **Leave ASAP**
-  **Leave possessions**
-  **Call 911 when safe to do so**
-  **Be flexible**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

60

## Know Your Exits

Identify **D**\_\_\_\_\_ ways to exit various areas (and the building). Know the stairs and doors involved in each exit strategy.

## Leave ASAP

Seen in this actual CCTV video footage of the terror attack in Paris, you should look for any opportunity to escape, even if it is the moment the attacker passes you and moves out of view.

## Leave Possessions

Ignore the **I**\_\_\_\_\_ to collect personal items and business-related equipment. They are just things; leave them. Remember the World Trade Center on 9/11: people spent up to 20 minutes collecting personal items, turning off computers, etc. Every **S**\_\_\_\_\_ we waste might be the one we need most.

## Call 911 When Safe To Do So

Concentrate and communicate—the person on the other end of the line is going to ask a lot of questions. It is very important to call 911, but wait until you are out of danger.

## Be Flexible

In an active threat event, the situation can change on a second-by-second basis, and so our actions must be based on the **B**\_\_\_\_\_ information available.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None



# Run

Consider secondary exits



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

61

In this CCTV image from the Paris attack, look at the girl hiding in the corner. She and the young man did well to escape an immediate danger, but then they stopped. What are their options now?



Look closely: she is leaning against a ladder she could use to escape (or) she could press the emergency bar on the door next to her face and run outside. Look for escape options and help the person(s) that can't help themselves—or leave without them.

Another challenge to effective escape: obstacles like trash, supplies, etc. Anything that will obstruct your efforts to reach an exit. Weeks prior to the Tree of Life attack in Pittsburgh, a security assessment was done. Exits were blocked. Corrective action was taken, allowing escape during the attack.

## CLEAR ALL EXITS



Every second counts when escaping. Regularly inspect and clear all exits.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

None





# Hide

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT** TO ACTION

62

This module takes a closer look at some considerations that relate to the active threat response option to HIDE.



# Hide



**Lock the Door**



**Lights Out**



**Out of Sight**



**Barricade**

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

63

There are several basic considerations we should remember when we hide.

- **Lock the door**  
If possible, use the door lock and wedge a chair or other item beneath the handle.
- **Lights out**  
Make sure you turn out the lights, if you can.
- **Out of sight**  
Find a place where the attacker cannot see you if he looks in.
- **Barricade**  
Build a barricade against the door using heavy items.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Hide



SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

64

In this CCTV image from the Paris attack, apply the active threat response option **HIDE** to this scenario.

Hiding does require some presence of mind. We must remain calm, present to the danger nearby, and assess our surroundings at the same time.



If you were in this situation, we would hope you would notice the following:

- 1) Racks and carts can be used to create a place for you to hide or might provide some protection.
- 2) An open door might draw the attention of the attacker, who might enter to see if potential targets are hiding there. Close the door and barricade it with anything you can find in the room.
- 3) The woman appears to be on the phone. Remember, flee the immediate danger, and then call 911, when safe to do so.

## WORK THE CURRENT PROBLEM



Avoid thinking about the many possibilities. Solve each problem with the information available to you in that moment.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Hide

## Create a Barricade



Use chairs,  
desks, tables



Use a belt



Use a tie



Use rope

There are several proven techniques that we can use to barricade our hiding place. Here are a few examples:



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Barricade items can include chairs, tables, printers, and refrigerators . . . anything you can move in front of the door. This works with inward and outward opening doors. One of the most effective tools for doors is the doorstop.

Another option is to trap the manual hydraulic door closer. This is the device that is bolted between the door and the frame to keep the door from slamming shut. By binding the two arms together, the door will not open. If you do not have commercial options, we must improvise. We can do that in a number of different ways: a belt, a tie, a piece of rope, or even a chunk of fire hose.

### PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE



Without practicing these tactics and techniques, we will not possess the confidence to perform them under stress during a life-or-death situation.

### Notes




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### Additional Information



Your local fire department may discard old fire hose. It can be cut to size and slipped over the closer arm to prevent opening.





SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

66

In this *NBC News* segment from the Sandy Hook tragedy, Diane Sawyer interviews a teacher, Kaitlin Roig.

- The teacher demonstrated great fortitude in managing an unthinkable situation.
- She realized that a large window exposed them to discovery.
- She quickly moved 15 children into a bathroom.
- She pulled a bookshelf in front of the door and locked them inside.
- She felt they would all die, but constantly reassured the children everything would be OK.
- When they started crying, she kept them quiet.
- The shooting ended very quickly.
- The police knocked on the door, and she asked them to push a badge under the door.
- She waited for the police to use the school keys to open the door.



Conduct a walk-through of every classroom and identify the strengths/weaknesses of each room, discussing options with teachers.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- *NBC News*, "Connecticut Shooting: Sandy Hook Elementary Teacher Kaitlin Roig Protected Her Students" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX8V\\_ZWwgb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX8V_ZWwgb4)





# Fight

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**COMMIT** TO ACTION

67

This module takes a closer look at some considerations that relate to the active threat response option of FIGHT.



# Fight



68

With the decision to fight, you have two primary objectives: 1) distract or 2) control.

Remember, this is the final option. As a last option, it is accompanied by the mindset: ***Them or Me!***

1. Distract the attacker's attention from acquiring potential targets, interrupt action, and focus. Use sound or light: loud, unexpected sound, light, or contact may disorient the attacker and pull attention in a different direction. The attack requires focus, and the offensive can be broken when the attacker is required to defend himself.

2. Use aggressive physical contact. Imagine you have just one shot. Hit as hard as you can. Drive straight through the target, whatever your target is: the hands, weapon, or head. Control the perimeter, the firearm, or the attacker. Dislodge the weapon from attacker's hands and separate him from the weapon and control it. Damage the weapon or attacker's hands. Always assume there are multiple weapons.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Fight

Fight like your life depends on it, because it does

Use weapons of opportunity

Attack the weapon

120 seconds of uncontrolled violence

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

COMMIT TO ACTION



69

## Weapons of Opportunity

Look around: think about what might have the most devastating effect and whether you can use the item effectively. A fire extinguisher: either as a striking weapon or for spraying in the eyes? A three-hole punch? Look around the room now . . . what could you use?

## Attack the Weapon

Swing with the intent to break something, and keep striking until the attacker is not a threat. Remember, attackers hit 78% of their victims because their victims aren't fighting back—but only 25–30% of their shots hit the police because police are as aggressive as they are.

## Fight Like Your Life Depends on It!

If it helps, keep reminding yourself that you are not just saving your life, you are saving the life of the person next to you. Everyone lives or everyone dies. Fight as a team using the "swarm technique." It can be effective, increasing the overall chances of survival.

## Commit to Violence

The term is "violence of action." This is survival: it can be either your life or the attacker's. You should fight like your life depends on it, because it may.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Fight

The purpose of **FIGHT** is to interrupt the intruder and make it difficult to aim or injure



Fill in the Blanks



I \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_ and  
D \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_ or  
D \_\_\_\_\_  
T \_\_\_\_\_



This is a strategy of **LAST RESORT**

B \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_

Slides  
70-71

## Confuse and disorient

Think about the way you react when someone throws something at your face. You duck, or your eyes follow the thrown object. Sudden light and noise overwhelm the senses. If we can effectively confuse or disorient the attacker, other tactical options become available, like restraining the attacker or escaping past him.

## Interrupt thought process

We may use simple techniques, like spraying fire extinguisher chemicals into the face of the attacker. When the attacker raise their hands to protect their face, another person strikes the hand with the weapon or their face/head with a heavy object.

## Force different decisions

The goal of fight is to disrupt the attacker's plan through distraction and confusion. An effective counter may reverse the event, forcing the attacker to defend himself or run.

## Prevent or delay actions

If our counterattack or defense is as good as it was in some of the rooms at Virginia Tech, where the attacker repeatedly attempted to burst into the room without success, he will likely move on.



GOAL = BUY TIME

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None



# Run, Hide, Fight



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COMMIT TO ACTION

72

This CCTV footage shows the fight reaction take place in real time. This is CCTV from a grocery store during the Paris attack when an active shooting is taking place. Focus your attention on the gentleman in the foreground.

- He is processing the threat and almost without thinking, he prepares to counter the attack.
- Then look in the background. You will see a very different reaction from the woman in blue, who is lying on the ground playing dead.
- One is getting ready to fight and then chooses to run; the other just lies down and hopes for the best.



*The Guardian*  
“Run, don’t play dead”

CNN  
“What to do in a terror attack.  
Don’t play dead”

Quartz  
“The best advice if you find  
yourself in a terror attack”

(links to the right)

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/19/run-dont-play-dead-uk-counter-terrorism-office-advice-paris-attacks>
- CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2015/11/19/world/what-to-do-in-a-terror-attack-paris-survival/>
- Quartz <https://qz.com/554509/the-best-advice-if-you-find-yourself-in-a-terror-attack-do-not-play-dead/>



## Case Study: Tree of Life Synagogue

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73

This section will focus on the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue.



# Tree of Life: Pre-Incident



**September 2017**  
Training

**January 25, 2018**  
Full-scale exercise

**September 2018**  
Training

Numerous assessments for  
target hardening

Community: New police  
recruit initiative

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74

To better understand the Tree of Life attack, we must examine how actions taken prior to the incident mitigated the impact of the attack.

**September 2017:** Run, Hide, Fight training from the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

**January 2018:** Full scale exercise held to evaluate the Rescue Taskforce Concept (RTC).



**September 2018:** Training scenarios, walk-throughs, and security assessments provided by the Federation. Observed and cleared exit obstructions—the same exits used to escape the attack.



Prior to training, the rabbi did not carry a cellphone. After training, he carried a cellphone and was the first to call 911 to report the attack. Lives were saved.

## Notes




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## Additional Information



Training is a cycle that never ends.  
Repetition is imperative.

October 27, 2018

Initial Response



Rabbi called 911

2-3-minute police response

83 minutes

11 dead/6 wounded

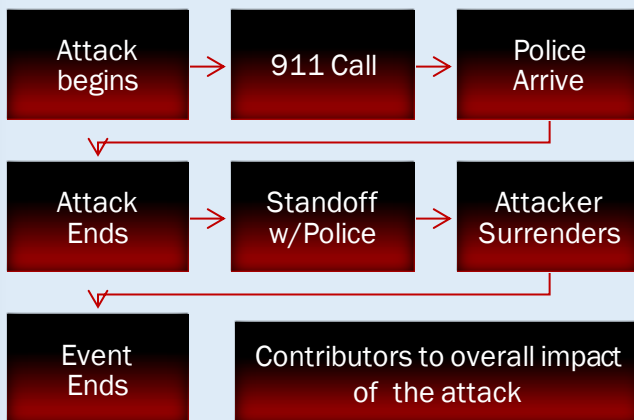


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75

### Phases of the Tree of Life Attack



- 1 Survivors acted quickly.
- 2 Fast report time. The 911 caller had a phone in his pocket and ran to hide before the call.
- 3 Police responded quickly and engaged the attacker—ending the attack on civilians.
- 4 Law enforcement and survivors worked together to render medical aid.
- 5 The medical command post was set up within 5 minutes of the attack and worked precisely as planned and practiced in training.

### Notes



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### Additional Information

None

## Timeline from radio dispatches, police reports and witness accounts

Saturday, Oct. 27

9:54 The first 911 call is made.

10:08 Police report no gunfire heard since the first exchange.

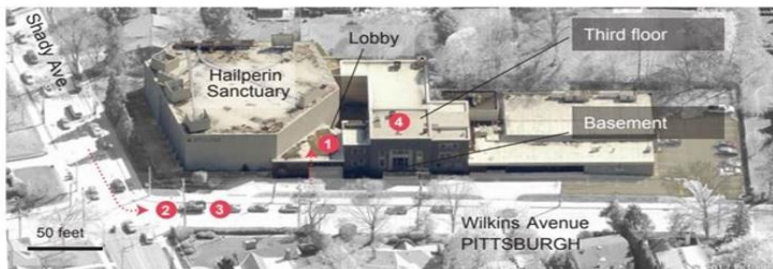
10:53 An officer says there is a man barricaded on the third floor, firing at them.

1 Around 9:50 a.m. A gunman walks into lobby and fires.

2 9:59 Police arrive and are shot at from the lobby area.

3 10:30 Tactical teams enter the synagogue.

11:08 Gunman surrenders.



SOURCES: Pictometry International; Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette AP

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76

## Lessons Learned



### Sounded like a coat rack falling

- We often will not recognize gunfire.



### Many survivors immediately ran

- Many of those who stayed were shot/killed as soon as the attacker spotted them.



### Survivors organized and helped others

- Because of their training, some assisted, guided, and directed actions of others.



### Stop the Bleed kit was not accessible

- The medical bag could not be reached because it was too close to the attacker.



### Peeking can be dangerous

- One fatality occurred when a person hiding in a closet looked out to see where the attacker was, resulting in the attacker opening the door to fire at point-blank range. Stay hidden until it is safe.

## Notes




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## Additional Information

None



# Survivor Stories



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77

Survivors of the Tree of Life attack share their experiences:



*"We need to have our cellphones at all times, and know your building."*



*"I would be dead."*



*"I am here today because I had my cellphone on me."*



*"I immediately started running toward the front of the room."*

Notes



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Additional Information

- Appendix A: Survivors Recall the Tree of Life Attack



# Case Study Summary



Pre-Incident Preparedness

2–3-Minute Law Enforcement Response

Run, Hide, Fight

Training, Security & Emergency Procedure

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78

## Pre-Incident Preparedness

There was no way to predict an attack in the coming weeks, but the time, effort, and attention by Jewish community members saved lives. SCN and professional security directors can assist the community by providing the training, but the capability lies with the members and leadership—will they choose to incorporate those security concepts? And they did.

## 2–3 Minute Law Enforcement Response

The Tree of Life attack was like all other attacks—two elements dictated impact of attack:

- 1) Availability of targets
- 2) Law enforcement response time

Police and medical response times were of exceptional benefit to the outcome.

## Run, Hide, Fight

The principles were used successfully.

**Training, Security, and Emergency Procedures**  
Preparedness was key. Training, drills, and constant contact with law enforcement made a life/death difference in this incident.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# When Law Enforcement Arrives

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79

In this section, we will discuss the methods police use when they respond to an active threat incident.



# Law Enforcement Priorities



- 1 Stop the killing
- 2 Stop the dying
- 3 Evacuate the injured

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80

1.

## Stop the killing

Police officers responding to an active threat are trained to enter the building quickly; they move quickly and proceed immediately to the area where shots were last heard. They cannot stop to aid injured people; their purpose is to stop the killing.

2.

## Stop the dying

As soon as officers have neutralized the threat, their attention will be focused on two things: searching the area to make sure there are no additional threats and tending to the wounded.

3.

## Evacuate the injured

Police officers often provide emergency medical aid to shooting victims and help carry the injured out to medical collection points. Sometimes they examine the injured and call out colors to draw the attention of medical personnel.



### IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

This is a targeted, high stress, and volatile law enforcement operation. Expect officers to be extremely focused and initially intent only on stopping the attacker.

## Notes



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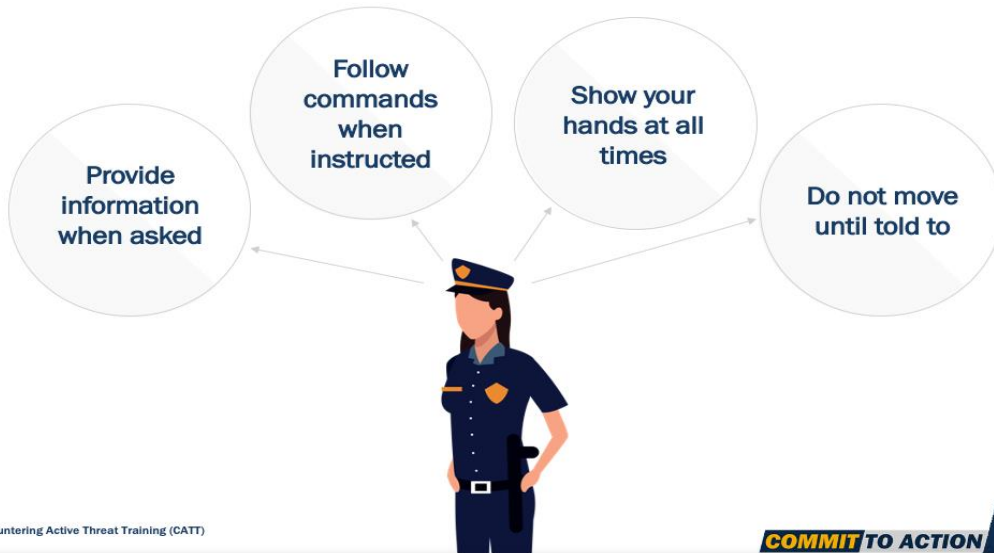
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## Additional Information

None

# Interacting with Police



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81



## PROVIDE INFORMATION

- Where is the shooter?
- How many are there?
- What are they wearing?
- What type of weapon do they have?



## FOLLOW COMMANDS

Police officers responding to an active threat are under exceptional stress:

- They may shout at you “GET DOWN” or “GO, NOW!” They may move you to protect you from the threat.



## KEEP HANDS UP

Police officers are trained to look at hands because this is where danger stems from.

- **Never** run up to police officers or attempt to touch them.
- **Never** grab your personal items—leave them and come back later.
- **Never** put your hands in your pocket or make sudden moves.
- **Never** be holding a weapon when the police enter, unless easily recognizable as law enforcement or security.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Appendix B: Tips for Interacting With the Police

# Interacting with Police



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**COMMIT TO ACTION**

82

This mobile phone video is an example of communication with law enforcement. The police officer is calm and reassuring, using simple phrases and clear directions.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Appendix B: Tips for Interacting With the Police



# STOP THE BLEED Training



- Ensure your own safety
- The ABCs of bleeding

**A**

Alert – call 911

**B**

Bleeding – find the bleeding injury

**C**

Compress – apply pressure to stop the bleeding by:

1. **Covering** the wound with a clean cloth and applying pressure by pushing directly on it with both hands, OR
2. **Using** a tourniquet, OR
3. **Packing (filling)** the wound with gauze or a clean cloth and then applying pressure with both hands

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83



## ALERT

If you are making the 911 call, someone else should be providing medical attention to the victim; everyone should be separate and safe from the attacker. Stay calm. Speak clearly. Be patient—the operator has a lot of questions.

**A**



## BLEEDING

The most important thing is to locate and stop the bleeding. If you determine it is serious bleeding, you need to take action immediately to stop the bleeding. Evaluate that it is safe to remain where you are, and then direct another individual to call 911.

**B**



## COMPRESS

Now it's time to stop the bleed. Use pressure and compresses, but if pressure doesn't stop the bleeding, apply a tourniquet (bandage, strip of cloth, tie, belt, etc.) that is tied tightly around an injured arm or leg to stop or slow the bleeding.

**C**

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Stop the Bleed  
<https://www.stopthebleed.org>

# Don't Name Them



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84

The Don't Name Them campaign is a coordinated effort by law enforcement and other entities.

- The focus of the campaign is to shift the media focus from the suspects who commit these acts to the victims, survivors, and heroes who stop them. This national effort is a critical corrective action because:
  - Some suspects are motivated by a desire for fame, notoriety, and/or recognition
  - When the media focuses on the attacker, they provide this fame, notoriety, and recognition
  - Some attacks may be prevented by removing one of the incentives
- Family members of the victims of the Aurora, Colorado movie theater shooting have also challenged media and public information officers to **not** name the shooters through their No Notoriety campaign.

## EFFECT OF MEDIA COVERAGE



Media coverage can create a contagion effect that inspires additional attacks.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

- Don't Name Them  
<https://www.dontnamethem.org>



# COMMIT TO ACTION

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

85

## COURSE SUMMARY



Gained a better understanding of the risk of active threat at a national, local, and personal level.



Discussed differences between security and safety, and how we plan for each.



Discussed the relevance of the Run, Hide, Fight active threat response model as it relates to historical events throughout the country and learned the characteristics of each element.



Gained a better understanding of the role of police in active threat situations and the best way to interact with law enforcement when they respond to an incident.



Discussed emergency medical response actions and the value of having trauma kits in our places of worship and schools.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Participant Feedback



## Help us make this training course better!

Please take a few minutes to tell us what you think. Review the Participant Feedback Form and answer the questions honestly.

If you have any additional questions about this course or any other of the courses we offer, please contact us at [training@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:training@securecommunitynetwork.org)

On behalf of Secure Community Network, thank you for attending today's session

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

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86

## CATT COURSE EVALUATION

Obtaining training participant feedback is critical. The facilitator will provide you with an evaluation form. Please complete the form before you leave today.

This feedback is imperative to ensuring the continued quality of SCN training, keeping SCN training up-to-date and relevant, and focusing on the parts of this training that meant the most to you or could be improved.

- It takes 3–4 minutes to complete the form.
- Including your name on the form is completely **voluntary**.
- Turn it face down and leave it on the designated space when you depart.

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

# Reporting an Incident



- Call **911** to report a suspicious incident
- Notify SCN Duty Desk immediately afterward

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

87

## REPORTING AN INCIDENT

- Always call 911 first for any emergency response, or if you feel as though you or someone else is in danger.
- For non-emergency situations, local, state, and federal law enforcement can and will help direct you, as well as provide guidance.
- For additional guidance, contact your regional or community security professional. If you do not have one, contact SCN for assistance.
- Remember, regional or community Jewish security professionals and law enforcement are there to help. Reporting suspicious behavior, an incident, or an issue is always helpful.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!**

## Notes



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## Additional Information

None





## Connect with SCN

To report suspicious activity, please contact the SCN Duty Desk



dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org



844.SCN.DESK



@Official\_SCN

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

88

Through its Operations Center and Duty Desk, SCN provides timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners, serves as the community's formal liaison with federal law enforcement, and coordinates closely with state and local law enforcement partners.

SCN works with communities and partners across North America to develop and implement strategic frameworks that enhance the safety and security of the Jewish people, developing best practice policies and procedures, undertaking threat and vulnerability assessments, coordinating training and education, offering consultation on safety and security matters, and providing crisis management support during critical incidents.

### Notes



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### Additional Information

None

# SCN Daily Update



To stay informed about what is occurring in the global Jewish community, register for our Daily Update Newsletter at [securecommunitynetwork.org](https://securecommunitynetwork.org)

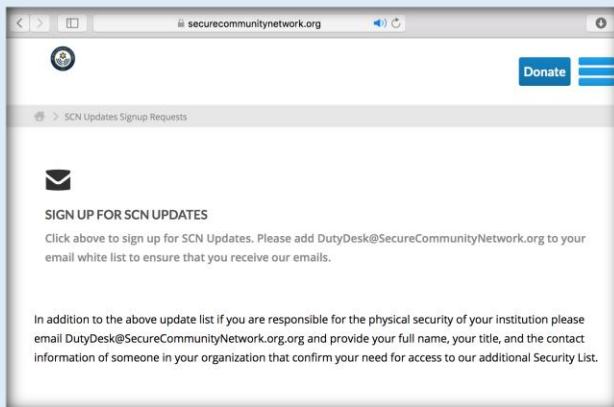
To learn more, contact the SCN Duty Desk at [dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org](mailto:dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org) or via phone at 844.SCN.DESK

SCN Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

**COMMIT TO ACTION**

89

Use the link above to take you to the SCN page below—and sign up for daily updates.



## Protecting Centers of Jewish Life



## Notes



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## Additional Information

None

## APPENDIX A

### SURVIVORS RECALL THE TREE OF LIFE ATTACK



Audrey Glickman



I was leading the first part of the service that day, as I always do on Saturdays. David Rosenthal would come up and help me lead. At one point in the service, during a brief study session that was assisted by Rabbi Myers as we started the first sentence of the *Kaddish D'Rabbanan* we heard a noise. It was a great clattering noise that sounded like it was coming from down the hall, and when I glanced up, I saw two of the guys going out the back door to see if they could help. It sounded like a coat rack had fallen on someone. We got about a sentence further into the study when we heard gunfire—rapid gunfire coming up the hall. It was clear that we had to do something.

We were trained in **Run, Hide, Fight** so **Run** was what we did right away, and I took David and we ran. We ran upstage, and out the side door away from the shooting. Rabbi Myers told everyone to get down and then he followed us. Bernice Simon screamed that her husband was bleeding. I went back inside to see if we could help her, but her husband was clearly dead. There was no helping Bernice; we just hoped she would run. Joe Charney came running up from the other direction and joined us. We continued back with David. I didn't have my cellphone, it was on the pew.'



'This is a very important point I want to make for women everywhere: We need to have pockets in our clothing when we go to the synagogue. This is very important! When we go to the synagogue, we need to have our cellphones in the pockets, whether the phone is off or on. I was wearing flaming orange pants that day—I don't know how I didn't get shot with those pants—but they had tiny pockets so I left my phone in my purse.



We kept trying to convince David to come with us, to hide and be quiet. He didn't understand running and hiding; what he wanted to do was to call his house and have his people come assist him, and in order to do that he would have to go outside and make the phone call. He left us and we never saw him again. I grabbed Joe's cellphone and called 911 to report the condition and location of Bernice's husband. I never saw the shooter.

Joe came through at some point, and Steve Weiss came through as well. I don't remember seeing him at all; he must've been moving so fast. The Rabbi went up the steps; we also went up the steps but in the opposite direction. Not knowing how many shooters there were, or where they were, we chose to hide instead of to continue running. We were afraid that we might accidentally run into more shooters face to face.





We went into an old office that had bags of clothing donations, and we decided to hide among the bags. Initially we thought that the window on the door was a mirror; we were wrong. Once we realized that, we covered ourselves in the donated clothing for as long as we could stand it. The clothes smelled very bad. There was a woman in the backyard adjacent to the synagogue who was screaming non-stop. I don't know what she was screaming about, but she kept screaming and shouting, and this was distracting because we were listening for the shooter . . . footsteps, location of gunshots, anything. We could hear the sirens arriving. We decided that we couldn't stand to hide any longer, and so we moved back up toward the choir loft. We badly frightened the Rabbi because he was hiding there. We checked the chapel for activity before heading to the front of the building. That was the only way out.



I recommend that EVERYONE know their building. If you have kids, you've probably already been sneaking around looking for where they go when they're not in class—or they've taken you to see some neat things. Whether you have kids or not, you must know your building.



As we moved to the exit we ran into police officers, who whisked us away. It is important to remember Run, Hide, Fight. We ran and then stopped running and hid because we didn't know what we were facing. It was more organic to the situation, and there are always going to be situations, like David Rosenthal not understanding that, are mitigating circumstances—and Bernie screaming, and me not being able to help her. If I could have helped Bernice, I don't know that I would have. My personal revolution will be to continue to stress that women have pockets and keep their phone on them.



We are not going to give up what we do. We're not going to stop being Jews, we're not going to stop going to the synagogue we're not going to mitigate anything that we would normally have done just because people are shooting at us!

I understand people are afraid and I understand fear is a big motivator, but on the other hand, we are not victims. We are not the underdogs, and we are not going to be the underdogs.

We will keep fighting against this . . . we will keep figuring out how to get rid of hate and will go on with life along with all our other friends who are also put upon in a broader society.



**Joe Charney**

I came to the shul at my usual time on Saturday, around 9:45am which is when services start. Some people were already there, and others were coming in. The Rabbi motioned to Audrey to start the service—which she did. I was sitting in my usual seat in the fourth row. We heard a noise, and when I turned around I saw this man with a gun pointed at me. I was not still for very long...a few seconds, I think. At that point I turned around.

Aubrey and the Rabbi were trying to help some of the people who [were] there get out of the way, but that was not possible. We were all pointing upstairs, and I don't remember my exact words, but basically I said, "Let's go!"



I followed Audrey up along the left side where there was a stairwell all the way to the third floor. The Rabbi went up through the center to get out of range. He pulled his cellphone out and called 911—I wasn't sure at the time who he was calling. I really didn't hear any shots but that may be because [my] hearing is not so good. We decided that the logical thing was to go around the inside of the mezzanine (?) as far as we could get, and then come down and go out the door. This worked, and when we went out, there were some police women who were very helpful. They asked me questions about the incident, but I couldn't really think of anything to add—all I knew was that there was a shooting.

#### Lesson Learned | The Value of Run, Hide, Fight

**Interviewer:** *"If you would've stayed in the chapel, what would've happened?"*

**Joe:** *"I would be dead."*





**Rabbi Myers**

Hello, I'm Jeffrey Myers. I'm the Rabbi of Tree of Life in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I'm here to talk about security—not to security for any one person and not security for any one faith—but security for all houses of worship. I don't think I need to repeat the story of what happened in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018, but I can say that **I am here today talking to you because I had my cellphone on me.** Now as an observant Jew, I wouldn't normally have my cellphone on me, I kept it at home plugged in. But I took security training and learned one very important thing: You need to have your cellphone on you because you never know when you might need it.



It could be just to quickly call 911 because someone is having a serious health issue. In our case, it was much more severe . . . as I was the first call to 911 when the shooting started. **This is not about being Jewish; this is about being smart and being safe.**

So I call upon people of all faiths, no matter what your faith is, that we must do all we can to keep everyone in our buildings safe. We must work together to train, to properly understand the things that one can know, so that if that moment occurs, you can be prepared and respond accordingly. Now you might say, *"It'll never happen to me."* Well, guess what? We thought that in Pittsburgh, and apparently we were wrong. I don't want you to be the next place that discovers the same thing. If you save one life, it's as if you saved an entire world. So, your responsibility is to everyone in your building at all times. Group together with other faiths, learn the important measures that you could take—that I learned—to protect your people. Even if you save a few, that's a few less that you must mourn. Take the time. Take the classes. Learn all that you can. So that, afterwards, you can leave knowing "I'm ready for whatever may possibly happen and I've done the best that I can to keep our people safe." **May you never need to call 911, but if you do, at least have your cellphone with you!**



**Steve Weiss**

Hi, I am Steve Weiss, and I'm going to talk about the events of the morning of October 27 at the Tree of Life Congregation. I was there for morning services as I would be on any Shabbat. At about 9:45 a.m. we started our morning service. At a little after 9:50 in the morning, there was a loud crashing sound in the hallway outside of the chapel. It sounded to me like somebody dropped a tray of glasses. Two of the congregants went running out to see if they could help the person—obviously there was a problem. I waited to leave the chapel because the Rabbi was leading a prayer that required 10 people to be in the room, and I was the 10th person. About 15 seconds later, the Rabbi finished the prayer, and as I walked toward the doorway, there was a series of sounds—they were unmistakable as gunshots.

As I stood in the doorway, I could actually see shell casings bouncing across the floor in front of me. I returned to the chapel, went over to the side aisle next to the very back pew. The Rabbi told everyone to get down, and I started to get beneath the bench when I realized that's not what we were trained to do. I immediately got up and started running toward the front of the room, across the bimah—the elevated platform—and out through the door. Gunfire erupted in the room behind me. I went down a back stairwell to warn the congregation downstairs. When I reached them, several of the members were already in the back hallway. I ran back upstairs. I heard gunfire downstairs. I left through a side hallway and exited the building to the side street where I waited for the police



Four people had left the chapel [at] the same time I did. One of those people was very concerned and wanted to go home. When I checked the room behind the chapel, no one was there. I later learned that the young man who did not want to stay hidden in the room behind the chapel went back into the chapel. He was killed. And a congregant downstairs, hidden in a closet, opened the door to peek out and was immediately killed.



When I think back to the training that I received in September 2017, when Brad Orsini came to conduct Run, Hide, Fight training with our congregation, and the ALICE training our religious school received, some key points in that training saved my life. I learned that if you are evacuating the area, then make that choice and get out of the area. If you don't feel it's safe to get out of the area, then you should find a place to shelter and stay there until the police arrive and it's safe to come out. Two people did not commit to their decision to remain hidden. They left their place and they were killed. Because I followed the training principles we learned, I was able to get out of the building, meet the police, and let them know the location of the shooter. I owe my life to the training that Brad provided. Had I not had this training, I believe I would have been the 12th casualty that day.



## APPENDIX B

### TIPS FOR INTERACTING WITH THE POLICE



Provide  
Information

In an active threat, and more specifically an active shooter, the attacker is a person who is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. There is generally no pattern or method to their selection of victims, and these situations are dynamic and evolve rapidly. The scene is not secure until the attacker has been neutralized. In decades past, police officers would arrive at the wounded and stop to treat them or remove them from the premises, but this distracted from what we now know as Priority 1: Stop the Shooting. When/if officers pass you, they may stop momentarily to get information from you. Expect them to be very matter of fact and ask questions rapidly. Every second counts. Reply quickly and in as few words as possible. These are the questions they will probably ask (and sample answers):

**Officer:** *Where is the shooter?*

**You:** *That way.* \*Point the direction you last saw the attacker.

If the shooting is happening at that moment, the police might move right past you because the gunfire is their objective. But there could also be a lull in shooting as the attacker reloads or moves to a different part of the building. In that case, officers need as much information as possible.

**Officer:** *How many are there?*

**You:** *I only saw one.* \*Don't ever guess; say only what you know.

One attacker is most common, but there have been several incidents (like Columbine High School and the Jersey City Kosher Market attack) where there were two attackers. This adds a challenge to the police response, and it is critical information.



Provide  
Information

Officer: *What are they wearing?*

You: *Red hat, green shirt, jeans.* \*If all you can remember is one thing, that's OK.

Remember how stress affects your focus; the same is true for officers. They must scan for all threats, all people and may be forced to pick the attacker out of a crowd. Knowing the color of the attacker's clothes helps to identify the right person quickly. Use top down description (if you can) because that is the way police officers are trained—hat/hair, shirt, pants. This is especially important if the attacker knows that the police have arrived and discards his weapon in an attempt to blend in.

Officer: *What type of weapon do they have?*

You: *They have two guns, a rifle and a handgun.* \*Again, only what you know.

Very often, police officers can hear gunfire and know if it is a handgun or a rifle. If an attacker has a rifle—assault rifle, hunting rifle or shotgun—this is a far more dangerous weapon and presents a tactical challenge. Even if it doesn't change their plan, they will want to communicate the information to the other units that are arriving outside.

Officer: *Did you see any explosives?*

You: *He is wearing a vest of some type. I don't know if it is explosives.*

When attackers use IEDs (or even threaten the use of IEDs) during an active threat incident, it adds certain challenges to the response. Attackers use them to buy time, force police to act in a certain way or move in a certain direction or even just to distract them. If you see IED-type things (even if you don't know what a bomb looks like), be specific: "he said he had a bomb but I didn't see one" (or) "I heard an explosion that wasn't gunfire" (or) "I saw a pipe with wires coming out . . . it's on the floor." This is incredibly important because the officer talking to you doesn't want the officers and medical personnel that are coming in to be in danger. Remember the Columbine incident; IEDs were lying in the hallway, and police had to figure out how to get the injured to safety without further risk.



### Follow Commands

Police officers responding to an active threat are under exceptional stress:

1. They take the safety of the public very seriously.
2. While they were arriving to your location, they heard situation updates and when they arrived, they had very little time to prepare.
3. They may be navigating through grounds, buildings or areas that are completely unfamiliar to them.
4. They may be in a four- to six-person team with officers they don't know and have never worked with. Remember, the new protocol is for officers (regardless of what department they come from) to arrive and assemble in small groups and immediately go after the attacker.
5. And lastly, they don't know the number of attackers or what those attackers possess: IEDs, boobytraps, armor-piercing rounds, hostages, etc.

For these reasons, officers may seem curt or even rude, but that is not the intent. They may shout "GET DOWN" or "GO, NOW!" at you. They may grab you and throw you on the ground to shield you from gunfire. When/if a police officer gives you direction, don't think, just act. In the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, we saw a shocking example of how fear causes people to act. The police methodically cleared hotels to reach survivors hiding in their rooms, and when they told them it was safe and directed the survivors to leave the hotel, they refused. They were so afraid they couldn't even follow officer instructions and chose to remain in their rooms.



### Keep Hands Up

Police officers are trained to look at hands because this is where danger comes from. Keep your hands in plain view at all times. We know that seems odd, as it should be "obvious" who the attacker is, but it's not. We know that it is possible that an attacker could pretend to be a survivor, for example, by falling in line with others who are ushered out by police. That is why, during an active threat, all persons are suspects until your identity is known. With hands up, police officers can continuously and rapidly scan for the hands they can't see—just like the Secret Service does during protection details. This is why we recommend that you:

**Never** run up to police officers or attempt to touch them.

**Never** grab your personal items. Leave them and come back later.

**Never** put your hands in your pocket or make sudden moves.

**Never** be holding a weapon when the police enter.

*\*If you successfully disarmed the attacker, resist the temptation to hold the gun and point it at the attacker—the police might misinterpret this action.*

**Never** deviate from instructions. Anyone doing so will draw unnecessary attention.





**Do Not  
Move  
-  
Wait for  
Instructions**

## Best Practices | Interacting With Police

### When officers enter in active threat formation:

- ✓ Remain calm. Breathe. Focus.
- ✓ Lie down flat on the ground with hands visible. Keep your head low.
- ✓ Point in the direction of the attacker.

### If officers direct you to stay in your hiding location:

- ✓ Do not leave the room
- ✓ Stay away from the door and any glass
- ✓ Stay low to avoid gunfire that might come through the walls
- ✓ Continue to do whatever first aid you can to control bleeding
- ✓ Roll unconscious victims to their side
- ✓ Be a reassuring voice to others: "Hold on, the police are here"

### If officers instruct you to leave individually (without escort):

- ✓ Go immediately and keep your hands up the whole time
- ✓ Do not attempt to take your bags or personal items
- ✓ Expect officers will be pointing guns at you when you exit

### When officers instruct you to leave in a formation:

- ✓ Get up with everyone else
- ✓ Keep your hands up and stay quiet
- ✓ If they forget, remind others to keep their hands up
- ✓ Be part of a rapid exit of as many as 25, 50, 100 or more survivors in an orderly fashion (usually a single file line) from the structure to an assembly point in a parking lot or other protected area, where other officers (also with guns drawn) will ask you questions and give you directions
- ✓ Don't assume that because you escaped danger and you have been verified that you are free to go. The location is a crime scene, and you are a victim and/or a witness. You may have valuable information for the investigation.



### Connect with SCN



dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org



844.SCN.DESK



<https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org>



@Official\_SCN



Secure Community Network

### To report an incident

- Call **911**
- Notify the SCN Duty Desk

