

# Active Assailant Preparedness



Preparing for an active assailant attack involves proactive situational awareness. The more you train before an attack, the greater your chances of survival.

- Know how to lock the door. Consider the furniture in the room and what will work best for barricading the door. [There are tools that can help with this](#), from floor bolts to simple door stops (just make sure that it isn't used to prop the door open).
- Ideally, there should be window coverings that can be lowered quickly, particularly over windows in the doorway, preventing the attacker from seeing into the room from the hallway.
- Be sure to keep the aiseways and exits clear at all times so that your exit routes are good to go.
- Know what your safer corners in each room are. This is the part of the room least visible from the doorway. Safer corners should be clearly marked in every room in your facility.
- Know all the exits, including windows. If you are on an upper floor, consider having a rope ladder stored near the window. Regularly practice primary and alternative exit routes.
- Know your evacuation routes. These should be posted in each room, with information such as the route, address, and what floor you are on – this is information you will need when calling 911. Other information to include is the placement of emergency equipment and instructions for people with disabilities.
- Know where your rally points are and make sure that they are not in the parking lot; first responders will need that area for their vehicles. The rally point for a fire may be different than a rally point for an active assailant.
- Just like fire drills, active shooter drills improve response time in the event of an actual attack. Remember to keep the drills age-appropriate and considerate of the participants' emotional well-being. The use of paintball guns or other scare tactics is not recommended.
- Remember that run, hide, fight is not a linear progression. You must constantly reevaluate your situation. It's important to recall hiding is an active concept. While someone is hiding, they are also actively looking to determine 1) if they should instead run, 2) if there is a better hiding place, and 3) if they have to fight, what weapons could be used and how can a group work together to strike different areas on the attacker (e.g., one going low, one going high, one controlling the hands/weapon).

DPrep Safety's Mindset active assailant prevention and response training blends the leading research in psychology, law enforcement, and military theory with our instructor's practice and experience to emphasize early preparation prior to an attack. Through a trauma-informed approach to instructional design, we educate participants to increase awareness of their surroundings, improving reaction time and empowers community members to act rather than becoming frozen by fear or indecision. Mindset helps participants choose the best course of action, leading to a better chance of survival.