

## Seven Things You Can Do Right Now to Defeat An Active Shooter in Your School

1. Teach your kids, teachers and staff the concept of Deny, Deceive, Distance, Delay, and Defeat and the mantra RUN-HIDE-BARRICADE and FIGHT.

Deny an Active Shooter's access to your facility with physical security measures, controlled and hardened entry points, locked doors, camera systems, fencing, etc.

Deceive an Active Shooter by an effective, flexible response to his actions. Kids, teachers and staff should be trained and empowered to use the options of Run/Hide/Barricade/Fight as dictated by the event.

Distance from an Active Shooter's by quickly evacuating [RUN] from the area of the threat and going to a secure pre-planned rally point.

Delay an Active Shooter by sheltering in place [HIDE] and [BARRICADE] your kids, teachers and staff only when and where appropriate to the event.

Defeat an Active Shooter by engaging him [FIGHT] with all weapons [conventional and improvised] available to you in a pre-planned group attack to stop his actions. Remember you are fighting for the rest of your life and the lives of your students and staff.

2. Think about the unthinkable. Many school officials don't have a better Active Shooter Plan because they don't like to think about an Active Shooter event at their school. For most people, including school officials, being involved in an Active Shooter event is unthinkable and they give themselves permission to avoid thinking about it.

3. Profile at risk students for predictors of violent behavior: moderate to severe depression, use of SSRI's or MAOI's, expressions of extreme anger, an obsession with firearms and death and threats to commit violence expressed in person, in their writings or drawings and on social media.
4. Learn to understand and evaluate threats. Become proficient in using a Threat Questionnaire and Threat Assessment Matrix. Know the difference between veiled, conditional, indirect and direct threats and how to respond to them.
5. Provide teachers and staff with first aid training and professional quality trauma kits. Most victims of Active Shooting events can survive with immediate medical care.
6. Plan, Train, Drill, Evaluate, Repeat. Hundreds of active shooting events in schools are now prevented each year in the United States. The schools which prevent or minimize the impact of an active shooting event all have one thing in common. They have developed a comprehensive, reality based plan to deal with an active shooter on their campus. They train for it, drill for it, evaluate their drills and then commit themselves to a process of continuous improvement.
7. Make friends with local law enforcement and fire department. These are the First Responders who will come to your aid when an active shooting event happens. Invite them to tour your school and ask for their input and help with your active shooter plan. Offer your facility for their use for training and drills. It is likely you have several students whose parents, or relatives work in your police and fire departments.

