HOME & COMMUNITY

Public emergencies & threat awareness

Know your exits, report specific observations and follow the agency managing the incident.

> An immediate threat or weapon attack: move away and call 911 when safe.

Before an outing

- Notice exits and alternative routes in unfamiliar venues. Agree on a meeting place if your group becomes separated.
- Keep your phone charged and emergency contacts accessible. Know how the venue communicates evacuation or shelter instructions.
- Pay attention to official messages and staff directions. Avoid spreading unverified reports or sharing another person's private information.

Report what you observe

- Describe specific behavior, a threat, or an item and its location. Appearance or identity alone is not evidence of a threat.
- Do not touch, move or examine a suspicious package. Create distance and notify staff or emergency services.
- Give the dispatcher the location, time, nature of the threat and relevant descriptions. Do not risk your safety for photographs.

If an armed attacker is nearby

- Escape by a safe route when you can. Leave belongings; warn others away if doing so does not delay your escape.
- If escape is impossible, hide out of view, secure the entrance when possible, silence the phone including vibration, and remain quiet.
- Physical resistance is a last resort when life is in imminent danger. Follow emergency instructions rather than seeking out the attacker.

When responders arrive

- Keep hands visible and follow commands. Avoid sudden movements; officers may pass injured people while stopping the threat.
- Provide first aid only when safe, within your training or dispatcher instructions. Keep access routes clear.
- Use official reunification information. Do not enter restricted scenes, self-deploy, or assume an online report means the incident is over.

Sources & further guidance

FBI - active shooter quick-reference guide | www.fbi.gov
DHS - recognizing and reporting suspicious activity | www.dhs.gov