

Active Shooter

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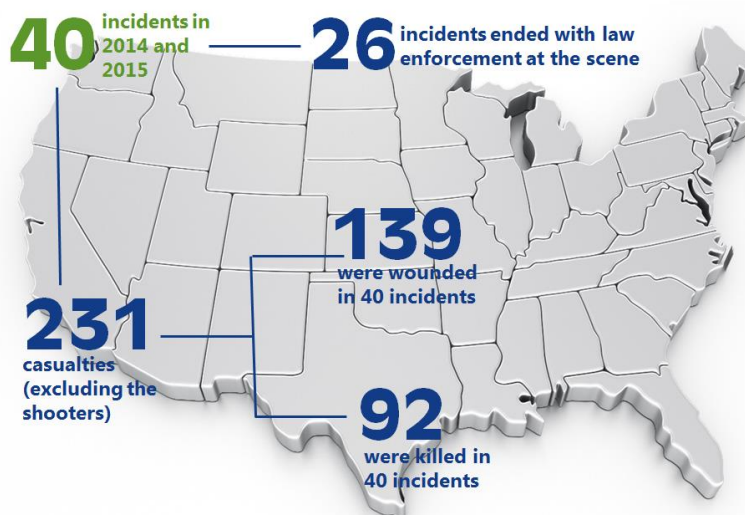
Several active shooter events have occurred in the last several months across the country, injuring and/or taking the lives of citizens and officers. This bulletin provides an overview of the events and active shooter considerations for law enforcement officers.

Within just the last eight weeks, in Orlando, Florida, to Dallas, Texas, active shooter events have occurred and endangered the lives of multiple citizens while they were involved in routine daily activities, and each event demanded a swift response by law enforcement. Officers must be prepared both mentally and physically to immediately assess the situation and handle an active shooter situation. It is **imperative** that all law enforcement officers train and have a plan before an active shooter event occurs.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in partnership with the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program, released [A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2014 and 2015](#).

An analysis of 2014 and 2015 active shooter incidents has identified 20 incidents in each of the years; information provided to advance available research and assist federal, state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement officers, other first responders, corporate leaders, and educators in their efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to active shooter incidents.

The study analyzes each of the 40 active shooter incidents that occurred in 2014 and 2015 and provides a brief summary of each. The graph below provides a snapshot of the 2014 and 2015 events.



Graphic depicts the characteristics of the 40 active shooter incidents identified between 2014 and 2015 that were used in the study. Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2016). *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2014 and 2015* (p. 2), Washington, DC.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation defines *active shooter* as

“An individual actively engaging in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.”



Are you prepared to be the first responder to isolate, distract, and neutralize an active shooter?

Active shooter situations are unpredictable, and response will vary based on the situation.

The first officer(s) on scene will be the first line of defense in an active shooter event. Officers need to know their agency's policies and procedures on active shooter response and have basic knowledge of how to handle active shooter events. Initially, officers need to make a quick assessment of the scene.

- **Are shots being fired?**
- **Is it likely that there are people inside with the shooter?**
- **What are people exiting the building telling you?**
- **Is there an indication that the shooter is moving or stationary?**

Based on the answers to these questions, an officer(s) may decide to attempt to neutralize the shooter or develop a team to attempt to contain and isolate the shooter. Once the shooter is neutralized, officers are often required to render aid to victims (if there are any) and the shooter to the extent of their training.

In 2011, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funded a partnership between the VALOR Initiative and the ALERRT Program to address the need for active shooter response training for first responders.



Through the BJA VALOR Initiative, ALERRT delivers a variety of Active Shooter Training courses nationwide. All topics listed are offered through the VALOR/ALERRT partnership.

- **Basic/Advanced Active Shooter Response**
- **Active Shooter Train-the-Trainer**
- **Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events**
- **Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events**
- **Breaching Techniques**
- **Operating in Low-Light Conditions**

For additional information on the ALERRT Program or to register for or request a training, please visit <http://alerrt.org/>.

Resources:

[*Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2014 and 2015*](#), published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[*The Police Response to Active Shooter Incidents, 2014*](#), published by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

[*United States Active Shooter Events From 2000 to 2010: Training and Equipment Implications*](#), published by Texas State University and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program.

[*Active Shooter: How to Respond*](#), published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Additional resources are provided on valorforblue.org.



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