



What to do during a lockdown or an active aggressor situation

Capitol Hill is an exciting place to visit, with reputable members of Congress actively congregating and working. However, due to the high profile nature of Capitol Hill, it can also make the area a security risk. Here are instructions for how to handle a security risk on your visits today.

Active Aggressor or Active Shooter

Active shooter situations are real and have occurred on Capitol Hill in the past.

Once a shooting starts, the situation can evolve rapidly, meaning that you must act quickly but also remain calm. If you are inside a building, follow the instructions of the Capitol Hill police. If you are inside a congressional office building, once a lockdown occurs offices will close. You should join another group or take cover inside of an office. If you are not inside of a congressional office building, you will not be able to enter due to the lockdown procedure.

During an active shooter situation, you are presented with three options: **escape, hide or spread out.**

Escape. The best way to avoid a shooter is by leaving the area as quickly as possible.

- Move quickly and do not wait for others to validate your decision.
- Leave belongings behind.
- Survival chances increase if you are not where the shooter is or by moving where the shooter cannot see you.
- If the shooting occurs inside, and you are already outside, do not go back inside. Run away from the building and hide.

Hide out. If you cannot safely leave the area, hide.

- You might not be able to get out if the shooter is between you and the only exit, or if you would have to enter an area where the shooter is positioned.
- Your hiding place should be well hidden and well protected.
- Avoid places that might trap you or restrict movement.
- Lock and barricade doors.
- Turn off lights.
- Block windows and close blinds.
- Turn off radios and computer monitors.
- Keep occupants calm, quiet and out of sight.
- Keep yourself hidden and take adequate cover / protection i.e. concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets (cover can protect you from bullets).
- Silence cell phones.
- Place signs in exterior windows to identify the location of injured persons.

Spread out to minimize risk.

- If two or more people are in a location, DO NOT huddle together.
- Spreading out gives you options and makes it harder for the shooter.
- Quietly develop a plan of action in the event the shooter enters your locations.
- Remain calm. This can have a contagious effect on others and keep others focused on survival.
- Do not open the door unless you are positive it is the police.