

Gun Violence Safety Strategies for RPE Staff in Schools, Bars, Community Organizations, and Events

Objective: To provide the team with recommendations, strategies, training opportunities, and connections related to gun violence prevention, including discussions on active shooter scenarios. Additionally, to highlight the availability of the "[self-care corner](#)" on the CAI website for team members' well-being.

Before visiting a school or attending a nightlife event...

Ask for their emergency contacts and policies for an active shooter or other situations. Some questions you can ask are:

- Do you have any policies for active shooters?
- Does the staff have any training in active shooter situations?
- Who is the best person or stakeholder to get information on community safety when there is an active shooter in the space or at events?
- How are you notified about any community emergencies?
- Has there been an emergency in the past that you were unaware of how to handle? If so, who did you contact to come up with a policy around it?
- Do you work with the local precinct community liaison or have their information?
- If they do not have any policies or training, offer to help them put one into place or research for training. If they do active shooter drills or training, ask when their next drill is and if you can be a part of it. Schedule and host activities outside of business hours or "hot spot" times when possible. Set up Google news alerts or other social media alerts to get emergency updates. Inform your agency/colleagues of your schedule and location (e.g., including key details in a calendar appointment like location and emergency contact). Have an emergency contact list of your own and message them upon arrival on site. Discuss the location's protocol for entering and leaving the premises. Clarify your role as a guest speaker and what you are expected to do in case of an emergency.

For questions, please feel free to reach out the New York State Sexual Violence Prevention Training Center here: <https://caiglobal.org/svp>

If you hear gunshots or see an active shooter...

- Try to escape as quickly as possible. Leave your belongings behind and warn others nearby. Call 911 when you are safe and describe the shooter, their location, and weapons.
- If you cannot run, find a place to hide where the shooter cannot see you. For schools, get into a room and secure the door. For nightlife events, avoid open spaces like hallways and look for a secure space with no or less windows. In advance of the event, discuss whether they have designated protective spaces and how to identify them. Lock and block the doors, close the blinds, and turn off the lights. Silence your electronic devices and stay quiet. Do not open the door for anyone except law enforcement.
- As a last resort, if you are in immediate danger, try to disarm or distract the shooter. Work together with others if possible.
- If you are safe, try to help others who are injured or in shock. Apply first aid or tourniquets if you have the skills and resources. Follow the instructions of law enforcement and keep your hands visible and empty. Seek professional help to cope with trauma after the incident.

Discussion questions to have with supervisors or agency colleagues are:

- What policies or procedures should we put in place to protect are staff when in the field
- How familiar are you with the run, hide, fight strategy recommended by the FBI and DHS?
- How often do you participate in active shooter response training and how effective do you find it?
- How confident are you in your ability to evacuate, barricade, or confront an active shooter if necessary?
- How do you cope with the emotional and psychological impact of an active shooter situation?
- What are some of the resources or support systems available to you in case of an active shooter situation?

Resources: Available Online Training on Active Shooter Situations:

- The FBI offers resources on its [run, fight, hide strategy](#).
- FEMA offers courses for individuals: "[Workplace Security Awareness](#)" & [Active Shooter](#);" and "[You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#)"
- 360training offers two free online courses for [active shooter awareness](#) and response: one for children and one for adults.

For questions, please feel free to reach out the New York State Sexual Violence Prevention Training Center here: <https://caiglobal.org/svp>

What's the Connection: Gun Violence & Sexual Violence

In some instances, it may be important to express the connection between gun violence and sexual violence when working with a partner agency or stakeholder. Some connections to emphasize might include...

- Gun violence and sexual violence are both forms of harm based on gender and identity that affect the health and safety of communities. They also have a disproportionate impact on marginalized groups, such as women, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and people living in poverty.
- Gun violence and sexual violence are both influenced by structural inequity that creates conditions of vulnerability and risk for certain communities. They also reflect the harmful consequences of easy access to firearms by misogynistic and racist individuals who target women, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and other oppressed groups.
- Gun violence and sexual violence are both linked to a culture of power and control that uses firearms as a tool to instill fear and inflict abuse on women, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and other oppressed groups. They also undermine the trust and well-being of communities that are affected by these forms of violence.
- Gun violence and sexual violence prevention require legal and community-based responses that address the root causes of these forms of violence and offer services and support for survivors. They also challenge the dangerous narratives spread by the gun lobby that promote firearms as a solution rather than a problem.

For questions, please feel free to reach out the New York State Sexual Violence Prevention Training Center here: <https://caiglobal.org/svp>