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# SURVIVING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT:

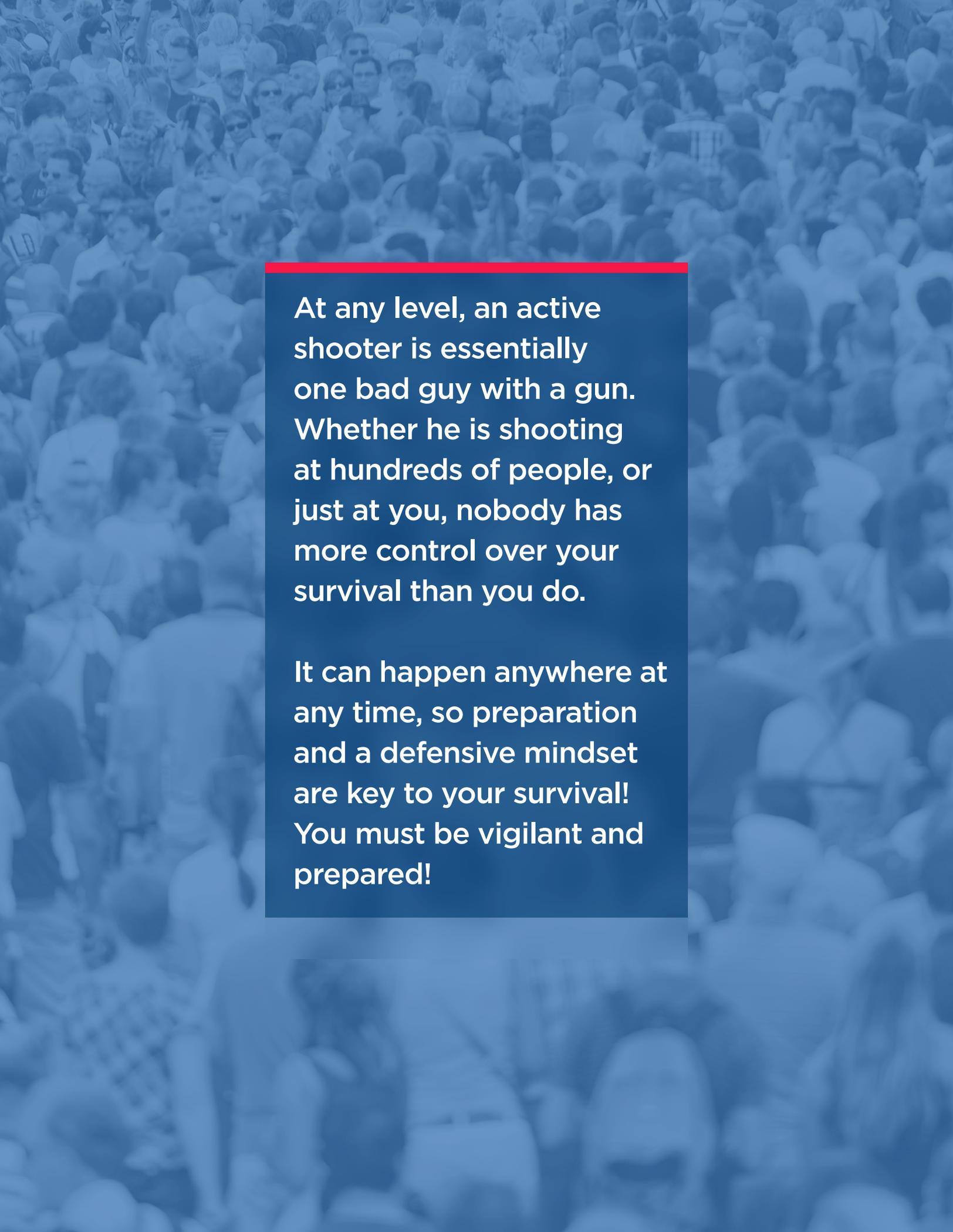
## 5 STEPS TO STAY ALIVE

### Special Report: Survive An Active Shooter

- Understand the profile of an active shooter
- Active shooter statistics
- 5 steps to survival
- Tips to interact with the police and more...



LEGAL DEFENSE  
FOR  
SELF DEFENSE



**At any level, an active shooter is essentially one bad guy with a gun. Whether he is shooting at hundreds of people, or just at you, nobody has more control over your survival than you do.**

**It can happen anywhere at any time, so preparation and a defensive mindset are key to your survival! You must be vigilant and prepared!**

# PROFILE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

## Identifying Characteristics Of A Typical Active Shooter

There is no exact profile of an active shooter, but they do share some common characteristics:

- Desire to end human life or inflict extreme harm on an individual or a group of people;
- Look for easy targets and opportunities;
- Most shooters have NO previous arrests for violent attacks;
- History of social isolation; and
- Interaction with mental health professionals.

No matter what laws or restrictions are in place, the shooter will always find access to weapons, magazines, and ammo to carry out their goal.

### WARNING SIGNS

If you are around a person who:

- Starts talking about committing acts of violence;
- Begins making plans to carry out the act of violence; and
- Loads up on weapons and ammo quickly.

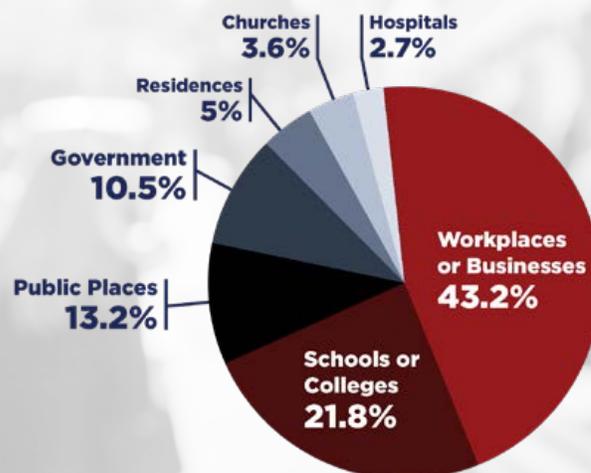
**Pay attention and report it!**

### MOTIVATION

Reasons vary, but there are some consistencies. Active shooters often:

- Feel wronged and want to get revenge;
- Have severe mental illness; and
- Desire to make a name for themselves.

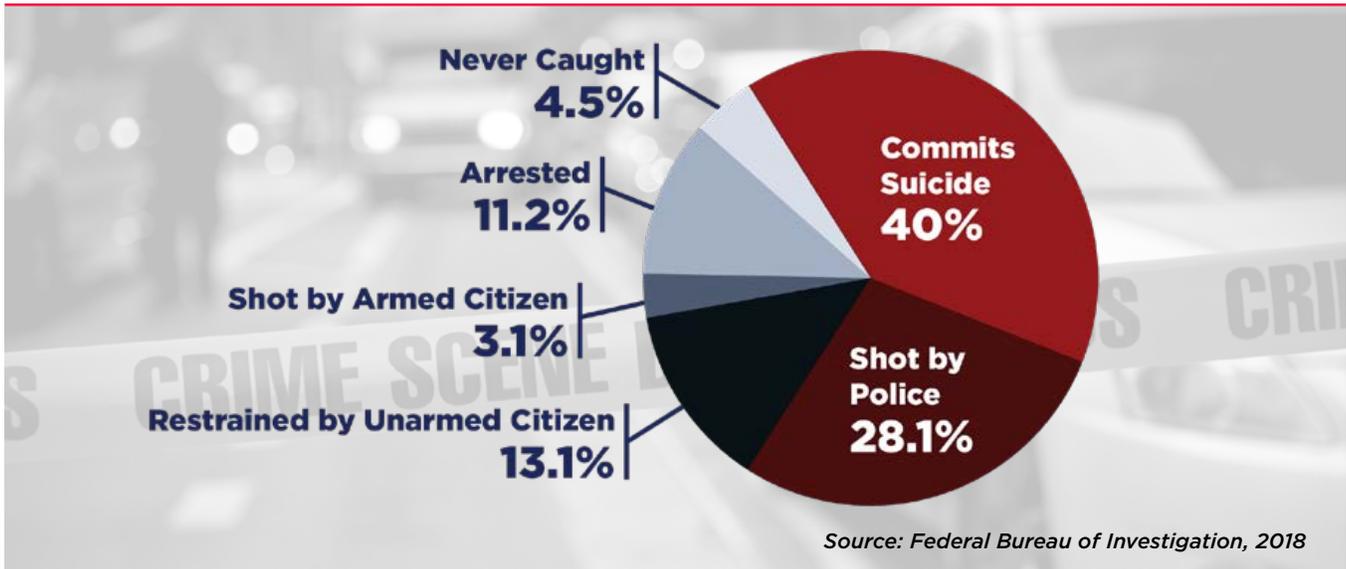
## TARGETED LOCATIONS



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2018

# STATISTICS TO KNOW

## TYPICAL ACTIVE SHOOTER OUTCOMES



An active shooter incident involves a person or persons whose single-minded purpose is to hurt or kill. They choose confined and populated areas in order to do the most harm. In most cases, active shooters do not utilize patterns or methods to select their victims.

**96.2%** of active shooters were male

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000-2013



## STEP 1: RECOGNIZE AND REACT

### Don't allow yourself to be a victim.

Ask yourself: have you done everything you can to prepare for survival? In today's world, we can no longer go through life without thinking about possible survival scenarios. You have to be prepared to fight for your life. Even when you are unarmed, you can protect yourself by developing a defensive mindset.

Key elements of survival are awareness, knowledge, evasion, and preparation.

**BE AWARE** of your surroundings, of others around you, and of uncommon sounds and behaviors. **BE PREPARED** to react. Always report suspicious behavior.

When you first enter a location, identify the exits, restrooms, windows, and stairwells. Make a quick assessment, develop a plan in your mind, and rehearse it. Ask yourself, "what would I do?" Devise a plan.

If you have to plan your escape during a stressful event, it is already too late. Stress causes sweating, increased heart rate, dilated pupils, and the inability to

think clearly. Having a plan will help you react immediately when every second counts.

If you think you hear unusual sounds, move toward an exit so you can quickly leave. Always assume it is what you think it is. Do not wait.

**98.7%**

of active shooters acted alone

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000-2013



“We are not preparing for the world we live in—we are preparing for the world we find ourselves in.”

#### **MICHAEL MABEE**

Veteran, Author

*Prepping for a Suburban or Rural Community: Building a Civil Defense Plan for a Long-Term Catastrophe*

## STEP 2: RUN AND ESCAPE

### Listen to your intuition. Follow your gut reaction. Act fast.

Instinct takes control; use what you've gathered from your surroundings, and act on what you know.

At the first feeling of danger, react! At the first sign or sound of an active shooter, run **AWAY** from the sound of gunfire. You will hear loud popping noises. The louder the noises, the closer the shooter is to you.

Do not hesitate. Move quickly to the nearest exit **AWAY** from the shooter or noises.

Try to get as many people as you can to evacuate with you, but do not let others slow you down with indecision or fear. If someone doesn't evacuate, do **NOT** wait for them; leave!

Leave all personal belongings behind and just run. Forget purses, backpacks, briefcases, and jackets. If you have a gun, grab it quickly. Do not go back for anything!

**2,217**

Casualties of an active shooter incident from 2000 to 2017

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000-2017

Remain low or crawl, if necessary.

Continue to move toward exits, locate the closest exit door, stairwell, elevator, or window. Use caution as you enter open areas.

Keep an eye out for approaching law enforcement and keep your hands open and above your head with fingers spread out when approaching police.

Once in a safe area, use your phone to call 911.



“A good plan now is a whole lot better than a perfect plan an hour from now.”

**TRENT LOZANO**

Law Enforcement Officer

## STEP 3: HIDE

### When running or escaping are not options.

You've tried running to escape the situation without success. What are your available options at this point?

#### PICTURE THIS



An active shooter is firing rounds towards a crowd of people.



All possible exits are either blocked, crowded, or inaccessible.



Hiding and securing your location may be your best bet for survival.

If you are in an area where you cannot evacuate safely, hide to the best of your ability, and fortify your position. Think of a way out for when it becomes safe.

Examine the room for possible exits or available weapons, even alternative ones (e.g., chairs, fire extinguishers, lamps, etc.). Think about what to do to defend yourself if you are found.

Coordinate a quick plan if others are in the room with you.

Remain out of the shooter's view.

Turn off all lights.

Lock all entry points: doors, windows, patios, etc.

Close blinds and window coverings. Cover any glass or windows to obstruct the view inside.

Barricade the entry points with large, heavy objects such as desks, refrigerators, and sofas. If people are present, ask for help to move items.

Stay low and hide behind heavy or dense objects, but think about what you can do if discovered.

Stay quiet and put your phone on **SILENT, NOT VIBRATE**.

Call 911, only if it safe to do so.

## STEP 4: FIGHT

### When hiding is no longer an option.

Use as a **LAST RESORT** to defend your life.

If you cannot evacuate, after you hide and barricade, you need to begin looking for ways to defend yourself.

Look for edged weapons, blunt objects, fire extinguishers, and of course, firearms. Even if you have a firearm, do **NOT** go out and attempt to confront or find the shooter! Stay in your location and defend the people in your group.

Plan your attack with others, if possible. Make assignments if there is time. Be ready to throw objects like books, backpacks, staplers, coffee mugs, *etc.* at the shooter to disorient and possibly injure them or to create a diversion.

If the shooter enters the room you are in, everyone needs to attack together. Your attack should be **VIOLENT** and **SWIFT!** Don't stop once you start! Remember—survival is key. If you

get your hand on the attacker's gun, control the barrel and direct it toward the ground. Keep the shooter from pointing the gun at anything other than the floor. Stand on the weapon once it is away from the shooter. Everyone else should attack the shooter and take all weapons from him, as he may have multiple guns or knives.

This is going to be terrifying and chaotic. It will be loud. The gun **WILL** fire! Count on it! People in your group **WILL** be injured.



## STEP 5: SURVIVE

### **Trust your instincts—take action—survival is your responsibility.**

Keep a level head and make the right decisions that will keep you alive.

Survive for you, your family, your loved ones, and friends. Prevent others from walking into the danger zone. Prepare a plan with co-workers, practice it in your mind, and talk with security. Even if the shooter is neutralized, you will likely have to remain in place for some time. Keep calm, help others remain calm, and care for the wounded as much as possible.

#### **Avoid common mistakes:**

- Putting yourself in a “corner” with no options to move;
- Choosing interior seats or the middle of crowds with no means to easily escape;
- Making yourself stand out;
- Selecting locations with obstacles blocking your exit route;
- Trying to take video or pictures;
- Freezing in place; and
- Coming into contact with items the shooter leaves behind—there could be evidence, bombs, more weapons, ammo, etc.

#### **On 911 call:**

- Provide location and address;
- Give quick details of the situation;
- Share a description of the shooter;
- State how many shooters are present, if possible; and
- State how many possible injuries.

#### **When police arrive:**

- Stay calm; do not raise your voice, point, or scream;
- Stay still and avoid quick movements—especially toward officers;
- Let them know you are a victim;
- Cooperate fully;
- Keep your hands above your head with fingers open, and drop anything in your hands such as bags or jackets; and
- **COMPLY WITH ALL COMMANDS IMMEDIATELY.**

**Keep in mind:** to the police, everyone can be a suspect.

Due to the nature of the call, every agency around will respond. You will see many different uniforms. Law enforcement will likely be wearing tactical gear with heavy vests and carrying rifles.

**250**

Active shooter incidents: 2000-2017

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000-2017

# EDUCATION IS YOUR NUMBER ONE DEFENSE

## Don't be a helpless bystander.

With this *Surviving An Active Shooter Incident: 5 Steps to Stay Alive*, you now have the knowledge to better ensure your survival should you ever find yourself in the midst of an active shooter.

### TOPICS LEARNED

#### ACTIVE SHOOTER PROFILE

There is no definitive set of characteristics

#### LOCATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Always have a plan

#### RECOGNIZE AND REACT

Develop a defensive mindset

#### RUN AND ESCAPE

Act fast

#### HIDE

Secure your position, look for an exit

#### FIGHT

Should be your last resort

#### SURVIVE

Avoid mistakes to stay alive

“You may be out-manned and out-gunned, but keep your wits about you, evaluate your surroundings, and you **WILL** have a better chance at making it home.”

#### KIRK EVANS

President, U.S. LawShield®

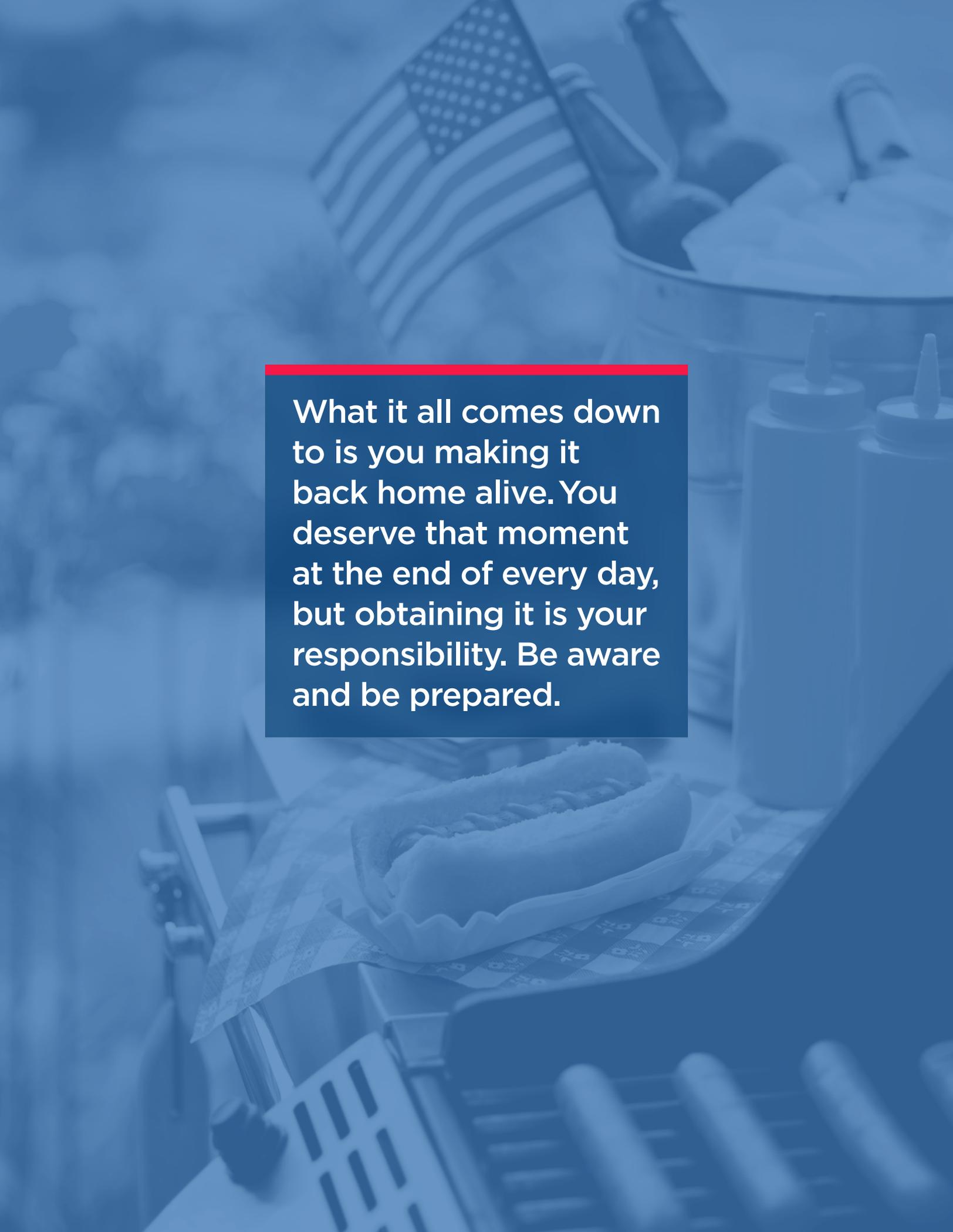
Come and join us for an active shooter seminar so you can learn more about how to protect yourself and have all of your questions answered.

Receive real-life knowledge and guidance from law enforcement professionals trained to handle these life-threatening situations. Then, learn from experienced Independent Program Attorneys as they explain how to navigate the legal aftermath of an incident.

### LESSONS LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM



**EMPOWERING YOU WITH THE SKILLS TO PRESERVE YOUR LIFE**



What it all comes down to is you making it back home alive. You deserve that moment at the end of every day, but obtaining it is your responsibility. Be aware and be prepared.



LEGAL DEFENSE  
FOR  
SELF DEFENSE

YOU DEFEND YOUR LIFE,  
**WE DEFEND YOUR  
FREEDOM**



## LEGAL DEFENSE FOR SELF-DEFENSE

If you must act in self-defense, you shouldn't have to worry about paying for an attorney.



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Emergency Hotline.

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