



## Proactive About Emergency Preparation

Best Practices March 2018

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Being prepared for life-threatening emergencies requires practice. Developing and exercising comprehensive emergency preparedness plans will best serve your staff, students, and visitors during emergency situations. While it's important to have plans for events such as fires, earthquakes, or power outages, they are especially critical for scenarios involving assailants, such as active shooter events. Regular practice and review beforehand helps the appropriate responses to become second nature, and can identify weaknesses, which can then be addressed and remedied.

It is important to consider all factors that contribute to or hinder the effectiveness of a plan. One of the biggest challenges planners face is that emergency situations can rapidly develop into scenarios that the plan did not anticipate. Ideally, plans will allow for flexibility, and drill schedules will train participants to carry them out calmly and thoughtfully. In order to assist you, we have provided some links below to applicable resources from the Department of Homeland Security. We also have additional resources available through our office, including onsite and procedure reviews. Whether you are reviewing existing plans or developing new ones, we encourage all districts to be proactive about preparation.

[DHS: Plan and Prepare for Disasters](#)

[DHS: Preparing Businesses for Emergencies](#)

[DHS: Active Shooter Preparedness Video](#)

[DHS: Active Shooter Educational Booklet](#)

