



ESCAPE. **HIDE.** TELL.

What to do in an attack

Just as it is important that you know what to do in a fire or a storm, you need to know what to do in an attack.

Thinking about the actions you should take ahead of time will ensure you are better equipped to respond.

Use this simple three-word memory tool -
ESCAPE.HIDE.TELL

ESCAPE

If you see a safe route, ESCAPE.

Move quickly and quietly away from danger.

If it is safe to do so, encourage the people you are with to go with you, but don't let the hesitation of others slow you down.

Take your mobile phone with you if it is safe to do so. DO NOT put yourself in danger to get your mobile phone.

Do not let your belongings impede your ESCAPE.

Do not congregate in open areas or wait at evacuation points. It is important to escape the area as quickly as possible.

Active armed offender attacks

When escaping an active armed offender, you should make use of cover and concealment opportunities if needed. This can include:

- blinds, curtains, room dividers, tents (concealment)
- brickwork or concrete walls (cover)
- building walls and partitions
- fences and other large solid structures
- vehicles including caravans
- earth banks and mounds, or creek banks
- bushes and trees.

If it is safe to do so, help people who might be unfamiliar with the area to escape by telling them which direction to move, or where there may be a safe place to hide.

Improvised explosive attacks

Leaving the area will help you to avoid falling debris, minimise your exposure to dust, smoke, and hazardous substances. It will also keep you safe in case a secondary device is present.

If in multi-story accommodation, use stairs not lifts. Be aware of floors and stairways weakened by explosives.

Once you are out of the building, move away from windows, glass doors or other potentially hazardous areas.

Chemical weapons attacks

If a volatile chemical is released inside a building or enclosed space, you should do whatever it takes to find uncontaminated air quickly. Exit the enclosed space if you can do so without passing through a contaminated area, or break a window to access clean air.

If a volatile chemical substance is released in an outdoor or open space, you should avoid any obvious plume or vapour cloud, and move upwind and uphill if possible.

The best way to escape a chemical exposure is to enter a building away from the site and seal the building.

This can include closing doors, closing windows, turning off fans and air conditioning systems, and sealing windows and doors.

If you come into contact with chemicals, you should:

- remove outer clothing if contaminated and place in a sealed plastic bag
- wash yourself with soap and water, flush skin with lots of water, and flush eyes with water if they are irritated
- put on clean clothes if possible
- seek medical attention

Hostile vehicle attack

In vehicle attacks, move as quickly as possible to areas that put as many obstacles between you and the vehicle as possible, but don't leave you trapped.

HIDE

If you are unable to escape, or are unsure if it's safe to do so, HIDE.

Silence your mobile phone and other devices and turn off vibrate. This is extremely important as the noise from your phone could easily identify your location to an attacker.

Be as quiet and still as possible so as not to give away your hiding place.

Be aware of your exits. Knowing your exits can help in case you need to move from your current hiding place.

Only as a last resort consider looking for something you can use to defend yourself if you are located by the offender.

Help others only if it is safe to do so

Constantly re-assess the situation and your options based on the best available information.

Active armed offender attacks

A safe hiding spot in an active armed offender situation is one that has a sturdy physical barrier between you and the offender. For example, locking a door and moving a large object behind the door.

If you are hiding as a group, and it is safe to do so, remind everyone to keep quiet and still, and to turn their phones to silent.

Improvised explosive attacks

If you become trapped in a building after an improvised device has exploded and objects are falling around you, get under a sturdy table or desk until you can escape.

If you are still trapped after an explosion and are sure the attacker has left, signal your location to rescuers by using your phone light, calling out, using a whistle (if you have one) or by tapping on a pipe or wall.

Chemical weapons attacks

Hiding within an enclosed space where a volatile chemical has been released should be avoided. By hiding in the space, you may increase your exposure.

IF YOU SEE SIGNS OF TERRORISM, SUCH AS

- online media promoting violent extremism,
 - excess purchasing of dangerous materials,
 - someone at risk of becoming radicalised,
 - someone undermining Australian sovereignty,
 - people being harassed by foreign actors,
 - suspicious travel plans or abandoned luggage,
- please contact the **National Security Hotline**.

TELL

When it is safe to do so, TELL.

Call the police by dialling Triple Zero (000). But never at the risk of your own safety or the safety of others.

The more information you can give about your location, surroundings, the attackers and the events that have occurred, the better.

If it is safe to do so, try to obtain the following:

- exact location of the incident
- description of the offender/s and whether they are moving in any particular direction
- details of any weapons being used
- number of people in the area and any that have been injured
- the motive or intent of the offender/s (if known.)

You may be asked to stay on the line and provide further information that the operator requests or if the situation changes.

Your top priority should be your safety, so maintain awareness of what is going on around you, and keep quiet if you are in danger.

If it is safe, provide advice to others in the area that may be unsure of the current location of the threat and what they should do.

Never put yourself or others in danger.

Police response

When police arrive, follow their instructions.

Their first priority will be to deal with the immediate threat to prevent further injury and this may take time.

It is possible that police may not be able to distinguish you from the offender/s.

It is important to remember:

- Police officers will be armed and could point guns in your direction.
- Police may treat you firmly.
- Avoid quick movements or shouting and keep your hands visible.
- The police priority is to locate the offender. This means they may move past people that need help.

You will be evacuated when it is safe to leave the area.

If you have safely escaped, stay away from the area until the police approach you for information.

Contact Numbers:

If you face a life-threatening emergency, phone 000.

National Security Hotline: 1800 123 400 or SMS: 0429 771 822, or hotline@nationalecurity.gov.au

If calling from overseas, call (+61) 1300 123 401. For TTY users, call 1800 234 889

If you do not speak English well, call the Translating and Interpreting Hotline on 131 450 and ask them to call the National Security Hotline and interpret for you