




COUNTER TERRORISM SAFETY TIPS

How to Report a Tip

 Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 Use our **Mobile App**
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

 Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://www.crime-stoppers.org)

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.

The topics of terrorism and active shooters continue to be of concern and are important issues facing our communities and schools. We can mitigate tragedies by building awareness, reporting suspicious behavior and educating ourselves on what do in an active attack event.

- Definition of an **Active Attack**: When an individual or individuals is actively killing or attempting to kill multiple unrelated people in a public space. Includes active shooters, vehicle and knife attacks and any other means of mass murder.
- Definition of **Terrorism**: The unlawful use or threat of violence especially against the government or the public as a politically motivated means of attack or coercion.
- Definition of **Terroristic Threat** according to Section 22.07 of the Texas Penal Code: Any type of threat of violence against a person or institution with intent to: Cause a reaction by emergency services. Place a person in fear of serious bodily injury. Prevent or interrupt the use of a building, facility or meeting area.

Did you know?

- Terrorism and active attack events are not the same thing, although they both consist of the killing of innocent people, terrorism is politically motivated.
- There were 27 active shooter incidents in the United States in 2018 with a total of 228 casualties with the youngest shooter being 13 and the oldest being 64
- Perpetrators can be anyone, there is no profile of an active shooter
- Active attacks and terrorism can happen anywhere and at any time
- In Texas, you can be charged with crimes starting at 10 years of age
- Hoax threats are no joke and can have serious criminal, academic and social consequences to the perpetrators and devastating consequences to the public
- Issuing a threat of targeted violence against public places and schools through social media, gaming, via text message or email is a crime!
- International and domestic terrorists use the internet to recruit support and spread their message through images, videos, and publications using social media and gaming platforms.

TYPES OF TERRORISM

- **Domestic**: When attacks are committed by Americans against fellow Americans within the United States
- **International**: When attacks are committed by individuals and/or groups connected with foreign terrorist organizations or state-sponsored nations outside of the United States
- Both domestic and interaction terrorism can include:
 - Cyberterrorism
 - Bioterrorism
 - Chemical terrorism
 - Radiological terrorism
 - Nuclear terrorism
 - Ecoterrorism

PREVENTION

- Be prepared to take action
- Situational awareness is key, know who and what is going on around you
- Identify exits when entering any building
- Have a threat assessment at your school or place of business
- Attend or schedule an active shooter presentation
- Be attentive to suspicious and concerning behavior and report
- Be responsible with guns and keep them locked

If an active attack occurs – **take action** – what you do matters:

- Avoid (Run)
- Deny (Hide)
- Defend (Fight)

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If an active attack occurs – take action – what you do matters

- **Avoid (Run)** the situation if possible and escape through secondary exits if your primary exit is not an option
- **Deny (Hide)** entry if possible. Lock and block/barricade doors, turn out lights and stay out of sight
- **Defend (Fight)** yourself as a last resort. Look for heavy and sharp objects that you can use against the perpetrator
- **First Aid** is crucial in helping yourself and others
- **Help law enforcement** by following commands and keeps hands visible
- **Seek support** to cope with trauma

School Threats



- If a threat by a student causes anyone to be in fear of serious bodily injury, or the school or school district was required to change plans for the school day, issue a lockdown, cancel activities, evacuate a building, or refrain from using a certain portion of a building due to the threat, the student will most likely be criminally charged with making a terroristic threat
- The vast majority of schools have zero tolerance policies for threats to schools
- Consequences of making school threats can include mandatory placement in a disciplinary alternative education program (“DAEP”), expulsion, placement in a juvenile detention center and/or probation
- The law requires that a principal must notify law enforcement of all terroristic threats
- School threats can occur before, during or after a school day
- School threats can be verbal or made online through text messages, social media and gaming
- Can include bomb threats, threatening to pull fire alarms, hoax threats, online threats
- Making school threats can hinder future opportunities
- **ALL THREATS SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY**

MONITOR YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR

- While it is normal to experience frustration and anger from time to time, do not post emotions online that can be interpreted as threatening
- Reposting and commenting on threatening posts can be a crime
- Don't make threatening jokes that could inflict fear
- Be aware of how you interact with others online, threatening violence does not justify self-defense
- Discourage your friends from making hoax threats

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE - REPORT!

- For immediate help and emergencies call 911
- Crime Stoppers of Houston Tip Line - 713-222-TIPS (8477)
- FBI Houston - 713-693-5000

Learn more by booking a presentation - contact us at info@crime-stoppers.org.