Active Assailant

This course prepares emergency telecommunicators to recognize, assess, and respond to active assailant and active shooter incidents. Learners will examine the characteristics of these incidents, understand the challenges associated with rapidly evolving events, and practice gathering and communicating critical information to responding agencies. The course also explores law enforcement response strategies, pre-arrival instructions, and the telecommunicator's role in supporting victims, responders, and public safety during high-risk incidents.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Differentiate between active assailant and active shooter incidents.
2. Identify common characteristics, environments, and trends associated with active assailant events.
3. Apply effective information-gathering techniques during active incidents.
4. Explain current law enforcement response strategies and rapid deployment concepts.
5. Deliver clear, effective pre-arrival instructions and support to callers during active threats.

Modules

Module 1: Understanding Active Assailant vs. Active Shooter

This module introduces the foundational concepts of active assailant and active shooter incidents. Learners explore the differences between the two terms, the types of weapons commonly used, and the importance of recognizing rapidly evolving threats. The module also examines the telecommunicator's role in gathering accurate information and supporting responder safety during chaotic situations.

Module Objectives

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Define the terms active assailant and active shooter.
2. Identify weapons commonly associated with active assailant incidents.
3. Explain why distinguishing between active assailant and active shooter incidents is important for telecommunicators.
4. Describe key information telecommunicators should gather from callers.
5. Recognize the relationship between responder safety and accurate information sharing.

Content/Activities

- Scenario-based examples
- Definitions and terminology review

Module 2: The Active Assailant Environment

This module examines the realities of active assailant incidents, including common environments, offender characteristics, incident duration, and the challenges faced by emergency communications centers. Learners review notable historical incidents and discuss how dynamic, chaotic conditions impact response operations.

Module Objectives

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe common characteristics of active assailants.
2. Identify environments where active assailant incidents are most likely to occur.
3. Learn what to expect during an active assailant incident.
4. Discuss common challenges such as high call volume, conflicting information, and chaotic scenes.
5. Analyze lessons learned from historical active assailant incidents.

Content/Activities

- Historical case studies
- Believable or Not? activity
- Incident statistics review

Module 3: Information Gathering

This module focuses on gathering critical intelligence during active incidents. Learners practice using the Journalistic Investigative Approach to identify important details about the suspect, victims, hazards, and evolving scene conditions while maintaining caller safety.

Module Objectives

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Prioritize caller safety before gathering information.
2. Apply the Journalistic Investigative Approach during active incidents.
3. Identify critical information responders need during active threats.
4. Assess the relevance of caller information during high-volume incidents.

Content/Activities

- Caller safety scenarios
- Relevant to Responders… or Not? activity
- Journalistic Investigative Approach exercises

Module 4: Understanding the Law Enforcement Response

This module explains modern law enforcement response strategies for active incidents, including Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (IARD). Learners examine rapid deployment tactics, coordinated response planning, and the importance of interagency preparedness.

Module Objectives

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Explain the goals of law enforcement during active incidents.
2. Describe the Immediate Action Rapid Deployment (IARD) strategy.
3. Identify the importance of pre-incident planning and building intelligence.
4. Discuss the role of interagency coordination during active events.
5. Recognize how telecommunicators support tactical operations.

Content/Activities

- Rapid deployment response review
- Agency coordination examples

Module 5: Your Role

This module highlights the critical role telecommunicators play before, during, and after active incidents. Learners review communication priorities, responder coordination, pre-arrival instructions, and caller management strategies.

Module Objectives

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the telecommunicator's role during active assailant incidents.
2. Communicate critical information clearly and efficiently to responders.
3. Provide effective pre-arrival instructions to callers.
4. Identify post-incident communication responsibilities.

Content/Activities

- Communication exercises
- Responder coordination examples
- Pre-arrival instruction review

Course Completion Criteria

To successfully complete this course and earn continuing education hours, learners must complete a knowledge check and achieve a minimum score of 75% . The knowledge check must be completed within 30 minutes.

- CE Hours awarded: 1
- Certificate duration: 12 Months

Technical Requirements

- Desktop, laptop, or mobile device
- Speakers or headphones
- High-speed Internet access
- A current web browser