



PATHWAY TO VIOLENCE: WARNING SIGNS AND WHAT YOU CAN DO



Individuals who perpetrate incidents of targeted violence often exhibit pre-incident observable warning signs or behaviors. The “*Pathway to Violence*” is a general model to explain how and why incidents of targeted violence occur and offers a useful framework for identifying, preventing, and managing the threat.



Targeted violence is an incident of premeditated violence where an assailant chooses a particular target prior to a violent attack and is directed at a specific individual, group, or location, regardless of motivation.



BE ALERT TO SIGNS OF TROUBLE

Potential warning signs could include:

- Increasingly erratic, unsafe, or aggressive behaviors
- Hostile feelings of injustice or perceived wrongdoing, including threats of retribution
- Unusual difficulty coping with stress
- Signs of drug and alcohol abuse
- Marginalization or distancing from friends and colleagues
- Changes in performance at work or school
- Sudden and dramatic changes in home life or in personality
- Reduced interest in hobbies and other activities
- Obsessive interest in prior attackers or attacks
- Asking questions about or testing security at a possible target
- Expressions that indicate or suggest violence is the way to solve problem(s)



APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION

Help ensure the safety of you and your colleagues by:

- Being aware of drastic changes in attitude
- Taking note of any escalations in behavior
- Providing any information that may help facilitate intervention and mitigate potential risks



REACH OUT FOR HELP

Concerned? Witnessed disturbing behavior?

- Contact your organization’s Threat Assessment and Management Team to alert them of potential dangers and enable them to mitigate any emerging risks.
- Consider submitting a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) to local authorities.

YOU ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY.



In an emergency or if the threat of violence appears imminent, contact 9-1-1 or local law enforcement.

For additional information on the Pathway to Violence and targeted violence prevention:

CISA Pathway to Violence resources: cisa.gov/pathway-violence

DHS Behavioral Threat Assessment and Integration: dhs.gov/btai

DHS Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative: dhs.gov/nationwide-suspicious-activity-reporting-initiative

Federal Bureau of Investigation, Prevent Mass Violence resources: fbi.gov/prevent