PLANNING AND RESPONSE TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER: 
AN INTERAGENCY SECURITY COMMITTEE POLICY 
AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Planning and Response to an Active Shooter: An Interagency Security Committee Policy and Best Practices Guide provides key ISC guidance for Executive Branch federal departments and agencies on how to plan for and respond to active shooter incidents. This document outlines policy requirements for the development, review, and updating of active shooter preparedness plans, along with the training and exercise(s) that must accompany those plans.

Active Shooter Preparedness Plan Requirements

- Required for every facility.
- Reviewed annually and updated as needed.
- Shall include the following elements: 1) Pre-Incident Planning; 2) Incident Actions; 3) Post Incident Recovery.

Training Requirements

- Employees shall be trained in “Run, Hide, Fight.”
- Employees shall be informed of the importance a personal plan.
- New employee training required during onboarding and annually.

Exercise Requirements

- Plan shall be exercised periodically or as the threat warrants.
- Can be any type of exercise (e.g. tabletop, functional, full-scale, etc.).
- Can be scoped as appropriate and should consider needs of individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs.

Three Planning Elements

- Pre-Incident Planning
  - Workplace Violence Prevention
  - Communication
  - Training and Awareness
  - Exercises

- Incident Actions
  - Mass Notification
  - Run, Hide, Fight
  - Occupants with Disabilities
  - Interacting with First Responders

- Post-Incident Recovery
  - Communications/Media Messaging
  - Managing the Response to Victims and Families
  - Reunification
  - Personnel Processing Centers

THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY COMMITTEE (ISC) was formed by Executive Order (EO) 12977 following the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK. Today, the ISC is chaired by the Department of Homeland Security and consists of a permanent body with representatives from 64 federal departments and agencies to address continuing government-wide physical security needs for federal facilities. Consistent with EO 12977, ISC publications, standards, and recommendations apply to all nonmilitary Executive Branch departments and agencies within the borders of the United States and its territories.