

SEPTEMBER 2020 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Because many of us are deployed in public areas and maybe unfamiliar with these areas, our safety message this month is focused on emergency preparedness for potential mass attacks in public spaces. The source for this message ready.gov.

We can all take steps to prepare, protect ourselves and help others against mass attacks.

Mass attacks occur when assailants(s) use weapons to attack crowds, target less protected indoor or outdoor spaces, intend to harm multiple victims, use the attack(s) to intimidate, use makeshift or modern weapons.

Observe warning signs from potential assailants such as unusual or violent communications, expressed anger or intent to cause harm and substance abuse, ideologies promoting violence, suspicious behavior such as excessive questioning or attention to security details, unusual items or packages.

There are different types of mass attacks including active shooter, intentional vehicular assault (IVA), improvised explosive device (IED), and other methods of mass attacks that may include knives, fires, drones or other weapons.

Protecting yourself against a mass attack requires staying alert, seeking safety, knowing exit routes, knowing where and how to cover and hide, defending yourself if capable and helping the wounded. Observe what is going on around you and avoid distractions such as texting, listening to headphones or being on your cell phone. Identify exits and areas to hide under cover wherever you go, including at work, school and special events. Map out places to seek cover. Place a barrier between yourself and the threat using solid objects, walls and locked doors as protection

Take trainings such as [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#) and first aid to assist the wounded before help arrives. Learn and practice skills such as casualty care, CPR and first aid. Organize and participate in safety drills in places where people gather including home, school and work. Take care of yourself first and then, if you are able, help the wounded get to safety and provide immediate care.

When you are safe, call 9-1-1 and be prepared to provide information to the operator including location of the incident, number of injured and details about the attacker(s).

When Law Enforcement arrives remain calm and follow instructions, keep hands visible and empty, report to designated areas to provide information and get help.

Be alert to your surroundings. If You See Something, Say Something® and report any suspicious behavior, items or activities to authorities. **Call 9-1-1**

THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUATED