

# MARO MONTHLY

## with Northwell Health's Crisis Management Team

ISSUE NO 1 | August - 2023 | Volume 9



## HELLO!

Welcome to another month of Northwell Health Crisis Management Team's newsletter, where you can share, learn about, and explore emergency management topics! Each month we will highlight different topics in emergency preparedness and emergency management, as well as healthcare administration. We encourage you to review our upcoming course offerings and other relevant information!

As always, we look forward to sharing our resources, hearing your suggestions, and getting to know you at our trainings.

The August 2023 newsletter will be centered around *active shooter response in the healthcare setting*.

## OUR MISSION

To lead the health system and community in an efficient and effective way before, during, and after emergency situations.

## OUR VISION

Northwell's Crisis Management Incident Response Team is committed to providing the surrounding community with a high-quality learning environment, training resources, and promoting an environment of collaboration with our training partners.



“Safety isn't expensive,  
it's priceless.”

– Jerry Smith



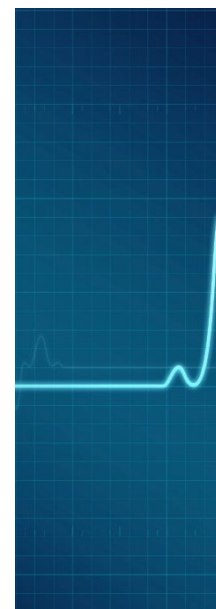
Scan Here to Register  
for our courses!



# Protecting Our Healthcare Systems: *Considering Healthcare and Emergency Management Professionals Role*

In the past several decades, active shooter events have increased in the United States by over 65% with an average yearly casualty count of 313 (FBI, 2022). According to the American Public Health Association, gun violence is a growing public health concern. As active shooter events continue to plague the United States, it is important for healthcare and emergency management professionals to consider their role in addressing this public health crisis. Overall, individuals can equip themselves with the knowledge of recognizing behavioral warning sign of violence, actions to respond to active shooter events and considerations of response efforts of an active shooter in the healthcare setting.

There is no prescribed behavioral profile that indicates if an individual will be more likely to initiate violence or an active shooter event. However, research has shown that are specific behavioral warning signs, also known as red flags, which may indicate an individual may be more prone to violence (FBI, 2023).



## Common Behavioral Red Flags

According to the FBI, being able to identify behavioral red flags may prevent a violent event from precipitating.



Violent Media Usage



Relationship Violence



Impulsivity



Anger Issues



Financial Distress



Disgruntled Employee



Increased Violent Commentary



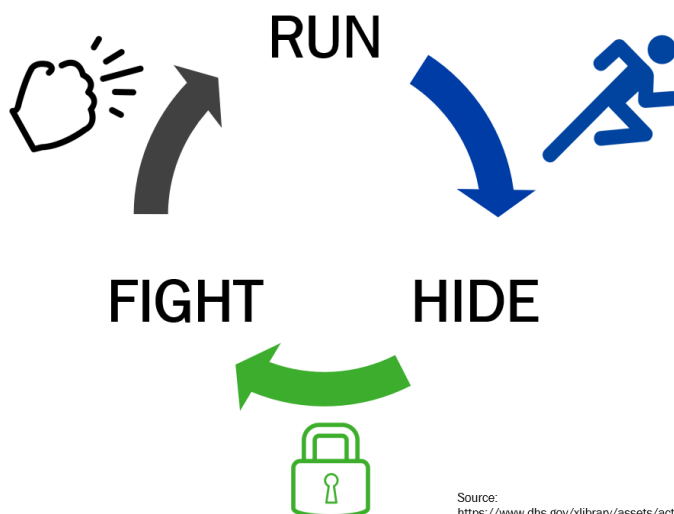
Blames hospital for death of loved one

In the event of an active shooter situation, the protective measure Run-Hide-Fight can be implemented.

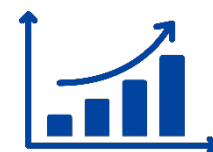
Please read below to learn more:

## Response to an Active Shooter Event: *Run-Hide-Fight*

1. If evacuation is possible, **run!**
2. If evacuation is not possible, **hide!**
3. Under imminent or actual attack, **fight!**



### Interesting Fact:



“Incidence of violence in healthcare is four time more likely than any other industry.”

Source: The Federal Bureau of Investigation

# Active Shooter Response in Healthcare: Secure, Preserve, Fight

The "Secure, Preserve, Fight" model has emerged as a comprehensive approach to addressing the escalating concern of active shooter incidents specifically within healthcare environments. As those in healthcare facilities face unique ethical dilemmas as patients may be incapacitated or actively undergoing a procedure, this model outlines a systematic framework for those working in healthcare facilities to respond effectively in the face of such threats. The model consists of three key phases of action: "Secure, Preserve, Fight". The initial phase emphasizes the imperative to "secure," where staff must quickly isolate and barricade themselves from the shooter to minimize exposure and potential harm (Denham, 2019). This aligns with the notion that swift and controlled response can significantly reduce casualties in a critical situation.

The second phase of the model, "preserve," underscores the significance of patient preservation. Preservation suggests transitioning patients away from windows and doors, relocating them to a sheltered area whenever feasible, and that healthcare professionals provide only "the essential medical care required to preserve life" as they await the arrival of law enforcement (Inaba et al., 2018; Ducharme, 2018). This dual focus on medical care and self-preservation acknowledges the unique responsibility of healthcare facilities to prioritize patient well-being while ensuring staff safety. Dr. Ken Mattox, from Baylor College of Medicine, stresses that being prepared for mass shooting incidents is crucial for healthcare professionals, as their actions can significantly impact the outcome of such scenarios (Gutierrez, 2018).

Lastly, the "fight" phase of the model, while considered a last resort, acknowledges the potential necessity of active resistance. If one's life or a patient's life is in immediate danger, they should attempt to fight off the shooter. This model aligns with the insights provided by trauma physicians, as highlighted in TMC News, who advocate for an updated approach to "Run, Hide, Fight" that integrates defensive actions with medical interventions for healthcare personnel (McAshan, 2018). Ultimately, the "Secure, Preserve, Fight" model offers a well-rounded and adaptable strategy for healthcare institutions to navigate the complexities of active shooter situations while safeguarding the lives of both patients and staff.

## Health System Highlights: The Northwell Safe Place Initiative

Due to an increasing number of violent attacks against medical professionals, Northwell Health introduced The Northwell Safe Place Initiative. The Northwell Safe Place Initiative is a multifaceted strategy aimed at elevating safety protocols and preparedness across all facilities.

As part of the Safe Place Initiative Northwell Health has introduced cutting-edge weapons screening technology, powered by Evolv, to enhance safety measures. This advanced touchless system evaluates those entering Northwell facilities for weapons and other contraband. Through the incorporation of Evolv's pioneering technology within the framework of the Northwell Safe Place Initiative, Northwell Health has strengthened its commitment to ensuring the safety of team members, patients and visitors.

## Active Shooter Event in a Healthcare Setting Considerations

*Source:* Active-Shooter Response at a Health Care Facility, The New England Journal of Medicine, 2018.

Caregivers commonly possess a moral and ethical duty not to abandon their patients which directly conflicts with the primary directive to run.

Patients may be:

- ❖ Physically or mentally incapacitated
- ❖ Undergoing an operation
- ❖ In active labor
- ❖ Dependent on life sustaining equipment
- ❖ At risk of death if abandoned





 Northwell Health

# MARO Monthly

Emergency Management Podcast



Hosted by Brian O'Neill

We encourage you to listen to our August 2023 podcast, hosted by Director of Business Continuity, Glenn Schaefering. The August podcast focuses on Active Shooter Response and preparation. Mr. Schaefering is joined by Director of Corporate Security Training, Kenneth Solosky. Together, the two discuss gun safety, communication de-escalation, and active shooter response. Additionally, the concept of active shooter response in the health care setting – secure, preserve, fight was explored.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

## UPCOMING COURSES



**Course:** HICS Webinar

**Date:** 09/05/2023

**Location:** Webinar- Register through the Crisis Management Website



**Course:** AWR-329

**Date:** 09/22/2023

**Location:** In-Person- Register through Northwell Crisis Management Website



**Course:** Nursing Leadership

**Date:** 10/11/2023

**Location:** In Person– Register through the Crisis Management Website

*For the full list of upcoming courses visit the Crisis Management Website!*

**September 2023 MARO Monthly Topic:**  
Healthcare Emergency Preparedness in Honor of National Preparedness Month



*Submit your questions about Healthcare Emergency Preparedness by scanning the QR code!*



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