



ACTIVE VIOLENT EVENT SAMPLE POLICY AND CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

On October 20, 2025, the New Jersey Attorney General issued Law Enforcement Directive 2025-2, which requires law enforcement agencies to develop policies and plans for responding to Active Violent Events. This directive requires every agency to create and implement an Active Violent Event Policy, ensure officers meet the required training standards, and identify critical locations.

An Accreditation Plus Sample Active Violent Event Policy is available that meets the requirements of Law Enforcement Directive 2025-2, and also includes critical sample policy guidance concerning:

- Swatting indicators and tactical considerations for telecommunicators, officers, and supervisors.
- Dispatch procedures for active violent incidents.
- Incident Command actions and references to the agency Incident Command System Policy (Sample available).
- Wellness and mental health considerations, including a reference to the agency's Employee and Family Wellness Policy (Sample available).
- Off vs. on-duty action considerations during an active violent event
- Rescue Task Force detailed actions for agencies that have that resource.
- References to the New Jersey Use of Force Standards.
- Medical treatment considerations and references to the agency Medical Care Policy (Sample Available)
- "Blue on Blue" shooting mitigation considerations.
- Identifying "large venue" critical locations and the required use of emergency operations plans during training.
- Sample tables to insert the names of critical locations, large venues, and educational institutions.

The Accreditation Plus Sample Active Event Policy is available in the [Law Enforcement Accreditation Plus Sample Policy Portal](#).

Chiefs of Police should review the following resources and considerations when developing the agency training program:

- Review the [New Jersey Office of Emergency Management Directive, National Incident Management System Training Requirements](#), and the [New Jersey State ICS Training Policy](#) and discuss ICS requirements with the applicable Office of Emergency Management to determine needs and appropriate training mandates.
- Include a review of the agency's policy concerning the New Jersey Extreme Risk Protection Order Act in the Active Violent Event training program. A sample Persons Not To Have Weapons – Duty To Warn – ERPO Policy is available in the [Law Enforcement Accreditation Plus Sample Policy Portal](#).
- Ensure the agency has the following policies in place to ensure officers receive appropriate policy guidance and that such policies support the Active Violent Event training program. Samples of the policies below are available in the [Law Enforcement Accreditation Plus Sample Policy Portal](#).

- Tactical Team Operations (This is essential even for agencies that do not have a tactical team. This policy also includes guidance and considerations for Tactical Flight Restrictions).
 - Ballistic Shields
 - Body Armor, Ballistic Helmets, and Rifle Plate Carrier Systems
 - Call for Service Response
 - Radio Communications
 - Bomb Threats and Suspicious Devices
 - Hazardous Materials Incidents
 - Mutual Aid Response
- Read the [FBI Active Shooter Incidents in the United States, 2024](#). Ensure the agency training program includes training topics concerning active violent events at open space locations, as 50% of the active shooter incidents in 2024 occurred at open space locations.
 - Read the [United States Secret Service January 2023 Publication, Mass Attacks in Public Spaces 2016-2020](#), which details key findings for law enforcement agencies to prevent targeted violence.
 - Read the Law Enforcement Bulletins, *Swatting: Critical Training and Mitigation Considerations*, and *Vehicle Ramming Attacks: Essential Considerations*, which are available in [MSI Law Enforcement Bulletins](#).

Chiefs of Police are also encouraged to review the following additional resources:

- Review the report, [Critical Incident Review – Active Shooter Robb Elementary School](#), which also provides vital considerations for the Chief of Police and those developing and delivering training for Active Violent Events. Some essential takeaways from Robb Elementary School Critical Review that may be highly valuable as agencies customize their Active Event Policy and training program include:
 - **Emergency First Responder Access:**
 - Arriving law enforcement officers searched for keys to open interior doors for more than forty minutes (Page 17). Law enforcement agencies should closely evaluate how their officers will gain access to the school and various rooms, recognizing that multiple master keys will be necessary. The need for highly secure key boxes should be discussed with applicable stakeholders. Chiefs or their designees should determine if educational institutions and other critical locations are equipped with a [KnoxBox](#), or similar locking systems and engage in the necessary discussions to determine how such systems can be accessed in a critical incident.
 - Officers assigned to the school had a culture of complacency concerning locked-door policies, and although door audits were conducted, they were not done systematically and were not documented (Page 17). Chiefs of Police should review the Sample Drill Checklist Forms below, which can be utilized by law enforcement officers during educational institution security drills. This form, combined with agency training and policy, helps ensure that officers do not become complacent during drills, documents identified concerns, and establishes a communication method to ensure that observed deficiencies or non-compliance are reported appropriately.

[Police School Lockdown Security Checklist](#)

[School Security Checklist – Non-Lockdown](#)

Law enforcement agencies choosing to utilize the sample checklists should:

1. Use the sample forms as a template and modify them as necessary, incorporating input from key stakeholders.
 2. Implement these forms as part of a written school security policy or other relevant policies.
 3. If implemented, develop a training program that supports the educational institution's security policies and other relevant guidelines, including the necessary forms. The training program should ensure that officers understand they might not be able to answer some questions accurately and that "unknown" might be an acceptable response in some situations.
 4. Ensure the Chief of Police or their designee thoroughly discusses the usage of these forms with the educational institution district Superintendent, and the Superintendent advises that education administrators are aware of their use. Ideally, a joint training session or information meeting would occur with school officials before utilizing these forms and processes.
 5. Ensure officers are aware of the notification and distribution process for completed forms within the agency and with education officials.
 6. Identify in the agency policy the distribution, including supervisory review, retention location, and retention schedule of completed forms.
- **Tactics and Equipment Considerations:**
 - Ensure a unified system is developed to mark rooms that were searched. (Observation 5, Recommendation 5.1, Page 110).
 - Agencies should also consider ensuring equipment is available at critically vulnerable locations, such as educational institutions and other soft targets (Recommendation 11.2, Page 112). Also, review Page 104, *Shields*, regarding training considerations and instructing officers not to wait for the arrival of a shield.
 - Determine what communication methods should be utilized when radio systems do not operate as expected (Recommendation 12.1, Page 113).
 - **Leadership, Incident Command, and Coordination Considerations:**
 - The recommendations listed on Pages 172-176 further emphasize the need for ICS training and the routine utilization of such principles.
 - **Public Communications During and Following the Crisis Considerations:**
 - Determine the agency's ability to deliver proactive messages to the community in a swift and organized manner (Recommendation 1.2, Page 229).
 - Direct those responsible for media and community relations, as well as those who supervise such personnel, to read Chapter Five.
 - **Trauma and Support Services Considerations:**

- Direct those responsible for agency wellness programs to read Chapter Six and discuss the availability of employee and victim assistant services teams from other agencies.
- **Educational Institution Safety and Security Considerations:**
 - Chapter Seven contains numerous recommendations regarding mutual aid among first responders and memoranda of understanding between law enforcement and schools (Pages 475-480).
- **Pre-Incident Planning and Preparation Considerations:**
 - Every agency must have a clear, concise active shooter policy (Recommendation 1.1, Page 480).
 - Law enforcement agencies should provide a total of 8 hours of scenario-based, stress-induced active shooter training annually for officers at all levels of rank. (Recommendation 7.1, Page 483).