



Dear *Pride Parade Participants*,

We want your experience at the Pride Parade to be safe, enjoyable, and filled with love and celebration. While it is unlikely that we will ever encounter an active shooter situation, it is essential to be prepared and informed about what to do in the event of such an emergency. Your safety is our utmost priority, so we have compiled a guide to help you stay safe and support each other during an active shooter incident.

1. **Remain Calm:** In any emergency situation, it is crucial to stay as calm as possible. Panic can lead to poor decision-making and hinder effective response. Take a deep breath, focus on the situation at hand, and encourage those around you to stay composed.
2. **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Stay vigilant and observe your surroundings for any signs of potential danger. Familiarize yourself with the parade route, emergency exits, and safe areas along the way. Identifying these locations beforehand will help you respond quickly and make informed decisions during an active shooter incident. Listen attentively for sounds that might be gunshots – they could sound like fireworks, popping balloons, etc.
3. **Run, Hide, or Fight:** If you find yourself in an active shooter situation, remember the following options:
 - **Run:** If it is safe to do so, run away from the danger. Move quickly and encourage others to follow. Do not attempt to gather your belongings, as your safety is the top priority. Run in the direction that is furthest away from gunshot sounds.
 - **Hide:** If running is not a safe option, find a secure place to hide. Locate a room or space with a lockable door, barricade it with heavy objects, and remain silent. Turn off any noise-making devices and silence your phone.
 - **Fight:** In the event that you are cornered and cannot run or hide, be prepared to defend yourself. As a last resort, use any means necessary to incapacitate the attacker and protect yourself and others.
4. **Communicate and Cooperate:** During an active shooter incident, effective communication is essential. If it is safe to do so, dial emergency services immediately to report the situation and provide accurate information. Utilize text messages or social media platforms to update others about your status and any relevant information.
5. **Assist Others:** In the spirit of unity and support, be mindful of others during an active shooter situation. Help those who may be unable to escape or hide on their own, especially individuals with mobility or sensory impairments. Together, we can ensure everyone's safety and well-being.

Remember, while it is essential to be prepared, it is equally important to focus on love, unity, and celebration during Pride Parades. By staying informed and following these guidelines, we can promote a safe and inclusive environment for all participants.

Stay safe, stay vigilant, and enjoy the parade!

With love and solidarity,

Southern Screams Team