



# Over-the-Road & Transit Bus Factsheet: Active Assailant

In an active assailant/shooter situation, drivers are individually responsible for the security and safety of their vehicles and riders. The judgment of the driver in the immediate circumstances of the attack will be critical and the decision to act in each unique situation ultimately falls to the driver.



## Driver Response: Options for Considerations

### Assess



- Suspicious person or activity at a stop:
  - Do not stop, and call dispatch or 9-1-1
- Active assailant / shooter onboard:
  - Stay calm and assess the situation to support action
  - Determine if you can de-escalate the person or situation

### React



- Activate panic button and notification systems, if available
- Notify dispatch and passengers
- Attempt to De-Escalate the assailant, as assessed
- Distract assailant
  - Use driving techniques
    - Swerve from side to side
    - Hit the brakes, accelerate, hit breaks again
- Neutralize the threat – use passengers for assistance

### Evacuate

Only when safe to do so, evacuate passengers and yourself



- Stop the bus and disable vehicle, if preventing assailant movement
- Open all doors
- Instruct passengers to run to cover:
  - Tell them to leave everything behind, put their hands up in the air
- Call dispatch and 9-1-1 when safe to do so



# Over-the-Road & Transit Bus Organizational Resources



## Information Sharing & Analysis Centers (ISACs)

The Surface Transportation (ST) and Public Transportation & Over-the-Road Bus (PT & OTRB) ISACs provide members information on threats and vulnerabilities to physical and cyber infrastructure and offer daily reports, special assessments, and time-sensitive alerts concerning both man-caused and natural incidents.

<https://surfacetransportationisac.org/>



## American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

APTA is a nonprofit international association of public and private sector organizations that is the only association in North America that represents all modes of public transportation. APTA members support bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne services, and intercity and high-speed passenger rail, serving the public interest by providing safe, secure, efficient, and economical transit services and products.

<https://www.apta.com/>



## Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI)

An organized surface transportation research and training unit that works to improve the safety, efficiency, accessibility, and convenience of our nation's transportation system through research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer.

<https://transweb.sjsu.edu/>

## Additional Reference Resources

- Making Prevention a Reality: Identifying, Assessing, and Managing the Threat of Targeted Attacks (FBI, 2019): <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/making-prevention-a-reality.pdf/view>
- Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2019-2020 (USSS NTAC, 2023); Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools (USSS NTAC, 2021): <https://www.secretservice.gov/protection/ntac>
- Insider Threat Mitigation Guide (CISA, 2020): <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/physical-security/insider-threat-mitigation>
- Workplace Violence and Active Assailant – Prevention, Intervention, and Response Standard (ASIS, 2020): <https://www.asisonline.org/publications--resources/standards--guidelines/workplace-violence/>
- Workplace Violence and Active Assailant Resources (SHRM): <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/pages/workplace-violence.aspx>
- The De-Escalation Series (CISA) : [De-escalation Series | CISA](#)
- Employee Vigilance Through the Power of Hello (CISA): [Employee Vigilance - Power of Hello | CISA](#)