



Homeland  
Security

# Mass Gatherings

## Take Charge of Your Personal Safety!

A mass gathering occurs when a large number of people come together in a particular location for a specific purpose. These locations, especially those associated with large crowds, could be an attractive target for terrorism and other crimes. If everyone plays their part, we can keep our neighborhoods, communities, and the nation safe against the threats we face.

## Be Prepared



Take notice of your surroundings and identify potential emergency exit routes.



Be aware of unusual behaviors, unattended objects, unexplained odors, or vehicles traveling at abnormal speeds or patterns.



Establish locations to meet if separated from your group.



Report any suspicious items or activities to law enforcement and/or onsite security personnel.

## Don't Hesitate – Take Action



If an attack occurs, run to the nearest exit, making use of available concealment while moving away from the source of hazard.



If no secure areas are available, protect yourself from harm by seeking cover behind any available natural or artificial objects that eliminate direct line of sight from the source of hazard.



Cover your nose and mouth if you notice unusual odors or eye irritation.



If you are unable to safely evacuate, hide in a secure area where access can be blocked or entryways can be locked.



If necessary, be prepared to defend yourself by attempting to incapacitate the assailant with any means available.

## Assist and React



Call 9-1-1 and remain alert for potential secondary attacks.



Maintain situational awareness while providing assistance to others.



Render first aid when safe to do so.



When help arrives, follow instructions given by law enforcement and first responders.

## Additional Resources

- Hometown Security Initiative: <https://www.dhs.gov/hometown-security>
- Active Shooter Preparedness Program: <https://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>
- "If You See Something, Say Something®": <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>
- Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative: <https://nsi.ncirc.gov/>

Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) proactively engage with government partners and the private sector to protect critical infrastructure. For more information or to contact your local PSA, e-mail [NICC@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:NICC@hq.dhs.gov).