

RUN HIDE TELL

ProtectUK publication date

21/05/2026

Guidance issued by Counter Terrorism Policing for members of the public about what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

RUN HIDE TELL video

Video

RUN HIDE TELL guidance

What to do in the event of a firearms or weapons attack. Guidance issued by Counter Terrorism Policing for members of the public.

In the event of a firearms or weapons attack, remember to follow **RUN HIDE TELL**

RUN



- escape if you can
- consider the safest options
- is there a safe route? **RUN**. If not, **HIDE**
- can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- insist others leave with you, but don't let their indecision slow you down
- leave belongings behind
- do not attempt to film the incident. **RUN**



HIDE

If you cannot **RUN**, **HIDE**:

- find cover that can withstand threats, such as a knife attack or gunfire
- if you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you. Cover from view does not mean you are safe. You must still **HIDE**, even if you are behind a locked door
- bullets can go through glass, brick, wood and metal. Find cover from gunfire behind solid or heavy reinforced walls.
- be aware of exits
- try not to get trapped
- lock and barricade
- move away from the door
- be quiet, silence your phone and turn off vibrate

TELL



When it is safe to do so, **TELL** by calling the police on 999

What do the police need to know? If you cannot speak or make a noise, listen to the instructions given to you by the call taker:

- nature of the incident – what is happening?
- location – where is the incident taking place? Give an address or general location
- suspects – where are the suspects?
- direction – where did you last see the suspects?
- descriptions – describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.
- further information – casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so

Downloadable assets

Here is a [video](#) explaining the steps to take in an event of a firearms or weapons attack.

Visit our campaign toolkit to download Run Hide Tell assets to use yourself. [[Run Hide Tell toolkit](#)]

KEYWORDS

RUN HIDE TELL

RUN
HIDE
TELL
ATTACK
GUIDANCE
EMERGENCY
WHAT TO DO IN AN ATTACK
ESCAPE
CALL 999
ATTACK METHODOLOGY

PAGE CATEGORY

RESPONSE