

# ARMED! Are You Ready? An Active Shooter Toolkit

Dear Health Care Leaders, Community Partners, and Voices of Experience Attendees,

Violence is becoming increasingly common in health care facilities across the country. In fact, more than 50 percent of all reported workplace assaults happen in hospitals, clinics, and other health care settings. Currently in Massachusetts, there are varying levels of preparedness. Some organizations have plans and procedures in place to deal with extreme violence, yet others may not even have a security and public safety department to respond to a violent situation and rely on local law enforcement to assist them.

As part of the 2013 ***Voice of Experience Conference: the Impact of Violence on Health Care Settings*** an Active Shooter Toolkit Workgroup was tasked with developing a “toolkit” for hospitals and healthcare organizations statewide based on current best practices. The toolkit was sponsored by the hospitals in Massachusetts Preparedness Region IV and funded from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) as part of the Hospital Preparedness Program, through a contract with the Emergency Preparedness Bureau at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The workgroup along with our partners, the International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) and Last Minute Productions produced an educational video titled *Armed! Are you ready?* The video/DVD can be adapted for use in any healthcare organization based on a scenario that escalates from a verbal altercation to an active shooter situation in typical healthcare locations such as a patient care area and conference room.

The video/DVD provides multiple options to educate and train your organizations codes, procedures and response plans. Some organizations have plans to embed this video in their learning management programs through the DVD or the link with IAHSS and VOE website and others plan to use this in employee forums and orientation. The following links provide you with access to the video and many other resources that may be helpful to your organization.

[www.iahss.org](http://www.iahss.org)

<http://voicesofexperienceconference.com>

In the *Armed! Are you ready?* DVD you will have the following menu on the homepage. 

- 11 minute video providing educational bullets and voiceovers
- 12 minute video with built in pauses to facilitate organization specific discussion and education
- 3 minute video of the scenario

Each of these videos is available with and without captions.

Also included in the Active Shooter Toolkit and located on the VOE website are templates for a poster, badge or pocket card that may be helpful to your organization. Feel free to make copies of the DVD and adapt any of the templates to fit your organizations needs.

We hope that you find these tools helpful.

The Active Shooter Toolkit Workgroup.

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