

# CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE FOR TRIBAL SECURITY

A Tribal Security Emergency Response Toolkit — National Native Justice Institute | [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us)

## ■ CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE IN TRIBAL SECURITY OPERATIONS

A critical incident is any event that threatens the safety of people, the integrity of tribal facilities, or the continuity of tribal programs — and that exceeds the routine response capacity of security officers alone. Critical incidents in tribal security settings include active threats, fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, workplace violence, and large-scale disturbances. Tribal security officers are typically the first on scene and their initial actions in the first minutes determine how the incident develops, how many people are harmed, and how effectively law enforcement and emergency services can respond.

⚠ Security officers who freeze, overreact, or fail to communicate clearly during critical incidents cause preventable harm. Preparation, training, and practiced response protocols make the difference.

📞 Immediate and accurate communication to tribal police, 911, and facility management is the most important single action a security officer can take in a critical incident.

🚫 Run-Hide-Fight (Active Threat), RACE (Fire), and scene isolation (medical emergencies) are the foundational response frameworks every tribal security officer must know before a crisis occurs.

📄 Post-incident documentation is as important as the response itself. Detailed, accurate accounts of your actions and observations support law enforcement investigation and protect the tribe.

## ■ ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSE — RUN-HIDE-FIGHT

### Understanding the Active Threat Framework

An active threat is a person actively engaged in, or immediately threatening to engage in, killing or seriously injuring people. The Run-Hide-Fight framework provides a priority-ordered response for all persons in the facility — including security officers whose role adds coordination and communication responsibilities.

#### Run — Evacuate When Possible

- If a safe evacuation route exists, evacuate the facility immediately. Do not wait for confirmation or permission if the threat is clear and immediate.
- Assist others to evacuate. Leave belongings behind. Call 911 as soon as you are in a safe location.
- Prevent others from entering the building. Direct arriving law enforcement to the threat location with specific floor, room, and physical description information.

#### Hide — Shelter in Place When Evacuation Is Not Possible

- Move to a room that can be locked or barricaded. Silence phones and electronic devices. Stay away from doors and windows.
- Remain in place until law enforcement arrives and provides an all-clear. Do not open doors for anyone claiming to be law enforcement until you can verify identity through a window or direct communication with 911.

#### Fight — Last Resort Resistance

- Fight only when your life is in immediate danger and no other option exists. Use any available objects as improvised weapons. Commit fully and act aggressively.
- Coordinate with others in the room. A group of people acting together has a significantly better chance of stopping an attacker than one person acting alone.

## ■ FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE — RACE PROTOCOL

### R-A-C-E: Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish/Evacuate

- **Rescue** – Remove anyone in immediate danger from the fire if it is safe to do so. Do not enter a smoke-filled room.
- **Alarm** – Activate the nearest fire alarm pull station and call 911 immediately. Report your location, the nature of the fire, and whether anyone is trapped.
- **Contain** – Close — do not lock — all doors between the fire and the rest of the facility to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- **Extinguish / Evacuate** – Use a fire extinguisher only on a small, contained fire that has not spread to walls or ceiling and only if you have been trained. For any larger fire, evacuate immediately using your facility's evacuation plan.

### Security Officer Fire Response Responsibilities

- Know the location of every fire alarm pull station, fire extinguisher, and emergency exit in every facility you patrol before a fire occurs.
- Know your facility's evacuation plan including assembly points, accountability procedures, and protocols for assisting persons with mobility limitations.
- Do not re-enter a burning building for any reason. Provide arriving fire department personnel with information on the fire location, any persons unaccounted for, and facility layout.

## ■ MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**Initial Response Protocol**

- Assess scene safety before approaching. Do not become a second victim by rushing into an unsafe environment.
- Call 911 immediately for any medical emergency involving unconsciousness, difficulty breathing, chest pain, severe bleeding, suspected overdose, or trauma from a fall or assault.
- Begin CPR for unresponsive individuals who are not breathing. If an AED is available, retrieve and use it. Follow dispatcher instructions until EMS arrives.
- **Overdose Response** – Administer naloxone (Narcan) immediately for any suspected opioid overdose. Tribal security officers in facilities where drug use is a known risk should carry naloxone and be trained in its use.

**Documentation After Medical Emergencies**

- Document the time you discovered the individual, their condition, what actions you took, who you notified, and what time EMS arrived.
- Preserve the scene after a medical emergency involving suspected assault, overdose, or unclear circumstances until law enforcement arrives and releases it.

**RESOURCES, GRANTS & SUPPORT**

Funding, Training, and Support Resources — Tribal Security Critical Incident Response Programs | [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us)

**■ FEDERAL GRANT RESOURCES**

**Emergency Preparedness & Security**

- **FEMA Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)** – Annual DHS funding for tribal emergency preparedness, active threat training, and security infrastructure. [fema.gov/tribal](http://fema.gov/tribal)
- **FEMA BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities** – Funds tribal emergency preparedness infrastructure including communications and facility safety. [fema.gov/bric](http://fema.gov/bric)
- **DHS Active Shooter Preparedness Resources** – Free active shooter training resources and planning guides for tribal facilities. [dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](http://dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

**Law Enforcement & First Responder Coordination**

- **COPS Tribal Resources Grant (TRG)** – Funds tribal public safety training including critical incident response. [cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources](http://cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources)
- **CTAS – Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation** – DOJ tribal funding for public safety programs including emergency response training. [justice.gov/tribal](http://justice.gov/tribal)
- **USFA – U.S. Fire Administration Tribal Resources** – Fire safety resources and training programs for tribal communities and facilities. [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov)

**■ STATE & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- **State Homeland Security Grants (SHSGP)** – Tribal security programs may be eligible for state-administered FEMA homeland security funding including active threat training. Contact your State Administrative Agency (SAA).
- **State Emergency Management Agency** – State emergency management offices often provide free active threat, fire, and medical emergency training resources to local and tribal facilities.
- **Local Fire Department Training Partnerships** – Local fire departments frequently provide RACE protocol, fire extinguisher, and evacuation training to facilities in their response area at no cost. Establish this relationship proactively.
- **Grants.gov Tribal Search Tool** – Search all federal grants available to tribal entities including emergency preparedness programs. [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) (filter: Tribal Government eligibility)

**■ KEY WEBLINKS**

National Native Justice Institute	<a href="http://www.nativejustice.us">www.nativejustice.us</a>
FEMA Tribal Homeland Security Grants	<a href="http://fema.gov/tribal">fema.gov/tribal</a>
DHS Active Shooter Preparedness	<a href="http://dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness">dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness</a>
USFA Fire Administration Resources	<a href="http://usfa.fema.gov">usfa.fema.gov</a>
COPS Tribal Resources Grant	<a href="http://cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources">cops.usdoj.gov/tribalresources</a>
CTAS – DOJ Tribal Assistance	<a href="http://justice.gov/tribal">justice.gov/tribal</a>
BIA Law Enforcement Services	<a href="http://bia.gov/bia/ojs">bia.gov/bia/ojs</a>
Grants.gov (Tribal Search)	<a href="http://grants.gov">grants.gov</a>

**■ PARTNER WITH NNJI — WE ARE READY TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY**

**TAKE ACTION TODAY** — Contact NNJI at [www.nativejustice.us](http://www.nativejustice.us) to schedule training, consultation, or access resources.  
*Strengthening Tribal Justice — One Community at a Time*