



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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## Press Release

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### ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TRAINING AND PREVENTION

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – Last week, the Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Office hosted a six-day Active Shooter & Casualty Response training that included law enforcement, fire agencies, hospital personnel as well private sector, non-profit organizations and volunteers.

“We are grateful that over 400 emergency response personnel participated in this training,” said Dr. David Ghilarducci, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director.” These exercises play a critical role in making sure our EMS system and partners are prepared to respond to an active shooter situation.”

According to a 2019 U.S. Department of Homeland Security report, “80% of school shooters under 18 access a firearm from their own home or that of a relative or friend.”<sup>1</sup> While it’s important for EMS to train for a worst-case scenario, Public Health Officials would like community members to understand their role in preventing an active shooter.

#### Here’s what the public can do to help:

- Don’t keep firearms in your home.
- If you have firearms in your home:
  - Store the firearm unloaded.
  - Unloaded firearms should be secured in a locked device such as a safe or a lock box.
  - Store ammunition separate from the firearm in a secure location.

“Following principles of safe firearm storage will not only help prevent active shooters but will decrease firearm injuries and deaths for children and youth including from suicide,” said Dr. Lisa Hernandez, Santa Cruz County Health Officer.

<sup>1</sup> Alathari, L., et. al. (2019). Protecting America’s Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. [https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting\\_Americas\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf)

For more information on firearm safety visit <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/tips>.

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