

The **RAIN** Model is four-step process developed by the [Community Safety Institute](#) in the 1990's after reviewing numerous school shootings throughout the decade. **RAIN** has been taught to thousands of people throughout the nation over the past two decades. It has been successfully used in order to minimize injuries and reduce victimization.

The **RAIN** Model for Responding to Violence

The **RAIN Model** has been developed for people to utilize if there is a crisis or conflict. **RAIN** is a great tool and model. **RAIN** is comprised of four primary elements:

- 1.) **RESPOND** refers to the necessity to do something, and not to freeze up.
- 2.) **ASSESS** refers to the teacher's ability to clearly determine

In the police academy we stress the importance of officer safety by telling new recruits that if they don't arrive on the scene safely but instead have a wreck, they have not helped anyone and have actually made the situation worse because *they* have become victims themselves.

Before you can help others you must be safe and make good decisions about how to assist during a crisis. These are some key terms in the correct method of response:

Quick Safe Deliberate Calm Controlled Command

Assess

- **Assess the offender** – his actions, weapons, and history. Note his emotional state – is he calm and controlled, or frantic and out of control?

- **Assess the victims** – their medical needs and status, the potential of injury to others, and the need for immediate assistance.

- **Assess the location** – the building design (whether public area or isolated); the access to safety or help (doors and windows); communications systems available (intercom, radios); and available cover or concealment.

Though we have examined three separate aspects of the **Assess** portion of the **RAIN** Model, remember that this assessment should take only seconds. Prior time spent in assessing your surroundings, escape routes, exits, cover, or concealment will expedite this process in the event of a crisis.

Isolate

In the **RAIN** Model, “I” stands for **Isolate**. Once your assessment is completed, or if you are in harm's way as you are sizing up the situation, you will want to **isolate** yourself and/or others from harm. In such an instance, **isolate** refers to separating the offender from victims or potential victims, and keeping a safe distance between yourself and the offender.

Notify

Finally, **Notify** stresses the need to notify the proper authorities without delay. The old Red Cross rule of thumb is best here: make sure you send several different people to get help and notify emergency responders. You might tell one person to “Call 911,” another to “Call the police,” and a third to “Go get help.” This way you are specifically assigning someone to a task. Thus, the **Notify** step means to assign someone to go for help, or to call emergency personnel immediately.

Additionally, people may want to:

- Hit a panic button
- Open the intercom or campus radio system
- Call 911 on their cell phones
- Send a computer or text message

The key to **Notify** is to get the word out in as many ways as possible that you need help, and not to assume that someone else is calling on your behalf or asking for help.