



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RICHARD GRILLO | CHIEF OF POLICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 August 2026

CONTACT: Lt. Ed Besonen, Professional Standards Division Commander

517.853.4876 | besonen@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Police Offers Free Training to the Public Civilian Response to Active Violence

Okemos, MI – The Meridian Township Police Department invites community members to register for the second session of its Community Engagement Series, focusing on Civilian Response to Active Violence.

This course will provide individuals with the practical strategies and psychological preparation needed to make rapid, life-saving decisions during an active threat. Built upon proven frameworks like "Run, Hide, Fight" or CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events), the curriculum focuses on shifting participants from panic to purposeful action through heightened situational awareness and dynamic risk assessment. We will discuss ways to identify secondary exit routes, rapidly construct effective barricades using everyday surroundings, prepare for defensive measures as a last resort, and clearly communicate critical information to 911 dispatchers. The training also discusses the arrival of first responders, emphasizing safe physical posturing and clear communication with law enforcement officers entering a scene.

Event Details

- **Topic:** Civilian Response to Active Violence
- **Instructor:** Lieutenant Ed Besonen
- **Date:** Tuesday, August 25
- **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Public Safety Building, 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI
- **Cost:** Free

To sign up, please visit meridian.mi.us/police and click on the Community Engagement Series sign up button. Class sizes are limited to 24 participants.

Please contact Lt. Ed Besonen at besonen@meridian.mi.us for further information.