

Under the Trooper's Hat

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The North Dakota Highway Patrol's highest priority is keeping North Dakota safe and secure by providing high-quality services. Although our focus is primarily on traffic safety, we are committed to respond to all threats to public safety, including active threat situations. Active threats are those incidents where there is an active, ongoing, serious physical threat of great bodily injury and/or death (deadly force) onto innocent people. Active threats include those involving firearms, explosives, knives, and other means. Examples of an active threat includes workplace or school shootings.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol receives training to immediately respond to any active threat situation. If there is a situation where a suspect poses the threat of great bodily injury and/or death to others and the delay in acting may result in additional injuries or death; troopers have received training to immediately act to prevent further injury or loss of life. Troopers will follow the use of force continuum as a guide for the appropriate amount of force needed to bring the situation to a swift conclusion.

There are typically three questions troopers will ask themselves during an active threat situation:

1. Has the suspect already used deadly force against someone?
2. Can the suspect still harm someone using deadly force?
3. Are there still potential victims for the suspect to use deadly force against?

If the trooper can answer "Yes" to any of the above questions, our duty is to respond and stop the threat as soon as possible.

It is important for North Dakota residents and visitors to know the NDHP will not stand idle while an active threat is occurring. Troopers have taken an oath to protect and serve and will immediately act to stop individuals who attempt to injure or kill innocent people.

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference every day by providing high-quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure. NDHP invites you to visit the FAQ section of the website: www.nd.gov/ndhp; like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/northdakotahighwaypatrol; or join us on Twitter [@NDHighwayPatrol](https://twitter.com/NDHighwayPatrol) or Instagram, www.instagram.com/ndhighwaypatrol, to learn more about traffic safety, get tips, and read NDHP news.