

# Lockdown, Barricade, or Door Lock?

During a violent critical incident, **lockdown, barricading, and door locking** are all strategies to help protect individuals, but each serves a slightly different purpose.

Here's an overview of each option:



## Lockdown

**Definition:** A lockdown is a safety protocol implemented when there is a threat inside or near a building, such as during an active shooter event. It involves securing the entire building or specific rooms to prevent movement and keep people safe until first responders can arrive.

**How It Works:** During a lockdown, individuals are instructed to do the following:

- » Stay inside designated rooms
- » Lock doors (if possible)
- » Cover windows
- » Turn off lights
- » Stay out of sight and away from windows, and remain quiet

Some school districts have a “tape line” in classrooms, where tape is placed on the floor to indicate where students should gather out of sight from windows and doors, usually in corners or along walls that provide cover.

Consider the next steps, including evacuation or counter, if age-appropriate and safe to do so.



**Purpose:** The goal is to make it as difficult as possible for an intruder to access or find people inside. Lockdown also helps law enforcement control the situation by containing people in one place.

**Limitation:** A lockdown can only be as effective as the physical security measures in the space (locks, barricades) and is reliant upon how closely individuals adhere to protocol.

**ALICE Application:** Lockdown is one of the options-based strategies individuals can use during any violent critical incident to keep themselves safe. ALICE Training® suggests spreading out in the room during lockdown with items in hand ready to counter as needed, only when age- and ability-appropriate.



## Barricade

**Definition:** Barricading is a physical action where individuals use furniture or other objects to block a door or entrance, creating an additional barrier between themselves and the threat.

**How It Works:** When barricading, individuals are instructed to move large and heavy objects like desks, chairs, or bookshelves against doors to obstruct entry.

**Purpose:** Barricading is an active defense method, usually used when doors cannot be locked or if additional security is needed. It buys time and increases the difficulty for an intruder to get in.

**Limitation:** The effectiveness of barricading depends on the materials available, the ages and ability levels of people in the room, and the ability to quickly set up a strong barricade.

**ALICE Application:** Barricading is one of the options-based strategies individuals can use during any violent critical incident to keep themselves safe.





## Door Lock

**Definition:** A door lock is a mechanical or electronic device designed to prevent unauthorized access by securing a door.

**How It Works:** Locking the door is one of the simplest security measures during an active shooter situation. Once locked, a door can slow down an intruder or prevent them from entering a room entirely.

**Purpose:** Locks provide a passive defense by physically restricting access.

**Limitation:** The effectiveness of a lock depends on its strength and type. Many older classroom or office doors may not have interior locks, or the locks may be easy to bypass or break.

**ALICE Application:** Navigate360 does not endorse or recommend manufacturers, brands, or programs unless explicitly stated.

## Comparison

STRATEGY	PURPOSE	STRENGTHS	LIMITATIONS
Lockdown	Secures individuals in place	Creates a physical barrier	Prevents door from opening
Barricade	Contains movement, simplifies response	Flexible, can be improvised	Passive defense, simple and quick
Door Lock	Relies on strong locks or barricades	Effectiveness varies, requires quick action	May not always be available or strong

In an active shooter scenario, using all three strategies together can be an effective way to maximize safety.