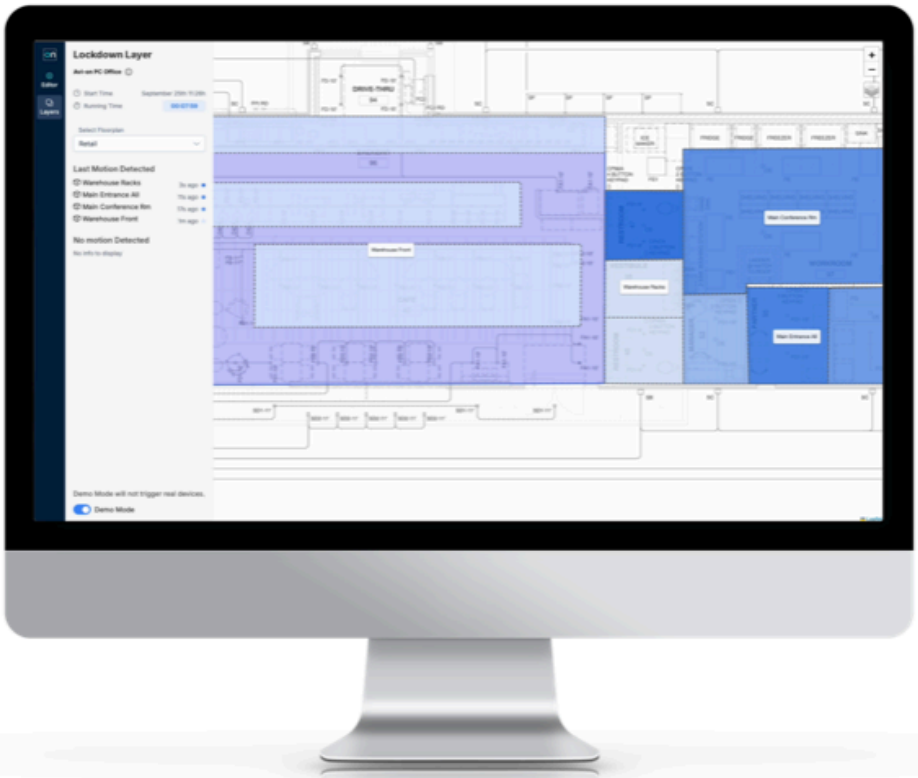
ALYSSA'S LAW & ALICE PROTOCOL

COMPLIANCE WITH AVI-ON



BACKGROUND

It has unfortunately become all too common these days: Schools, public facilities, and even private businesses have become the targets of unexpected, random, or pre-planned attacks. With easy access to modern weapons, these attacks can rapidly kill many people.

As a response to this threat, government and facility managers are looking for ways to rapidly secure their facilities when under threat, and to provide systems and capabilities to protect occupants, inform first responders, and facilitate resolution/evacuation.

These requirements, in some cases, have taken the form of legislation, generally known as Alyssa's Law, and with general guidelines to follow, known as the ALICE protocol.

Lighting and lighting controls can play a critical role in making any facility safer, assisting first responders, and helping frustrate attackers' ability to identify victim locations.

This paper outlines the capabilities the Avi-on system can provide in helping with building safety when under attack, and how it can be used to comply with legislative and other mandates.

ALYSSA'S LAW

Alyssa's Law was established in the wake of the tragic 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. It is named in memory of 14-year-old victim Alyssa Alhadeff, and its creation was spearheaded by her mother, Lori Alhadeff, and her nonprofit organization, Make Our Schools Safe. The primary purpose of the legislation is to reduce emergency response time by requiring public schools to install silent panic alert systems that are directly connected to local law enforcement. This measure is designed to provide immediate, discreet notification of a life-threatening emergency, such as an active shooter, and prevent communication delays. The first state to pass the law was New Jersey in 2019, and since then, multiple other states have adopted their own versions of Alyssa's Law.

While the core principle of a silent panic alert system remains constant, specific requirements can vary by state. Most versions of the law mandate that public elementary and secondary school buildings be equipped with a system that directly and instantly notifies police and other first responders. Some states, like Texas and Utah, require panic button technology in every classroom. Other states, like New York, only require that schools consider adding these alarms to their safety plans. Additionally, some states expand the law to include comprehensive requirements beyond silent alarms, such as providing first responders with digital mapping of school buildings, mandating staff training, and integrating the technology with other security systems. Many states also offer grant funding to help schools afford the cost of implementing these new safety measures.

The key elements of Alyssa's Law compliance include:

- **Mobile Panic Buttons**: Some states require wearable panic buttons for teachers or staff to discreetly activate the system. All states require some type of panic button triggers to be deployed in the facility.
- **Real-Time Data**: Other states require the system to transmit critical situational information, such as digital mapping data, to first responders.
- **System Integration**: Some legislation mandates that these systems integrate seamlessly with existing school communication and emergency response plans.
- **School-Wide Security Measures**: In addition to panic systems, some states require schools to conduct safety needs assessments, establish limited entry points, install lockable classroom doors, and ensure access to first aid supplies.
- **Regular Testing**: Systems are often required to be tested regularly to ensure functionality.

ALICE PROTOCOL

The ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) protocol was developed in 2000 by a police officer, Greg Crane, after the Columbine High School massacre. Before ALICE, the traditional response to an active shooter was a passive, lockdown-only approach that left people vulnerable. Crane created ALICE to empower people to participate in their own survival and to provide more proactive, options-based strategies during a violent critical incident. The training, which is rooted in SWAT tactics, has since been adopted by thousands of schools, businesses, healthcare facilities, and other organizations across the United States.

The protocol's requirements have five components, which are not a sequential checklist but rather a flexible set of options for individuals to choose from based on the immediate situation.

- **Alert**: Recognize the signs of danger and communicate the threat immediately.
- **Lockdown**: Secure a room by barricading the door and creating a safe space, allowing time to adapt to the situation.
- **Inform**: Share real-time, crucial information about the threat to aid in decision-making for staff and students.
- **Counter**: As a last resort, if escape isn't possible, create distractions and disrupt the attacker's focus.
- **Evacuate**: Leave the danger zone as quickly and safely as possible, moving to a designated, secure location.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

AVI-ON SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Avi-on has constructed several unique and key capabilities to specifically enhance the security of occupants and assist first responders in emergency situations.

Lockdown Mode:
With a single button or trigger from a third-party system, Avi-on can instantly lock down the lighting system to turn off the lights (or set to a predetermined light level by area), disable motion sensors, schedule, and wall station controls. This places the building in a known state, prevents an attacker from moving easily, restricts the ability to use lighting (whether on or motion-triggered) to identify the location of potential victims, and prevents an attacker from using wall stations to turn on lights manually.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS (cont.)

Real-Time Occupancy Visualization:

The motion sensors are repurposed in real time to create a visual floor plan map of occupancy and movement in the building, without actually triggering the lights. This map is displayed in a web browser format that can be accessed by authorized personnel on any computer, phone, or tablet from any location. The view shows both a graphic presentation of movement and tracks how recent the movements were.

Remote Lighting Control:

Through a web browser interface, authorized users can turn on lighting based on standard or customized grouping to highlight safe areas, exit paths, signal "all clear," or other protocols that may be developed for these situations. Lighting can also be controlled through BACnet.

System Integration:

Trigger lockdown mode through direct wall buttons within the Avi-on system or through integrations with notification/alert services using contact closure, BACnet, or API-based integrations.

Single Sign-On Integration:

Pre-integrate with Police, Fire, School, and other first responder authentication systems so that authorized users can be preconfigured and available instantly without additional setup. Maintain users as their roles change or they join/leave their respective organizations automatically. Maintain strict visibility and user controls to preserve lines of authority and user security. The Avi-on platform is the most secure in the lighting industry and carries the highest levels of third-party security certifications available.

Data Logging:

Record the event timing, duration, motion events, and commands issued during events for forensic/legal review.

ALYSSA'S LAW COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Alyssa's Law	Avi-on Solution
Must have a panic alarm system and, in some cases, mobile panic buttons.	Avi-on can provide wall-mounted trigger buttons and possibly mobile panic buttons. Avi-on can also receive panic messages from other systems (see System Integration).
Real-Time Data: The system should transmit critical situational information, such as digital mapping data, to first responders.	Avi-on uses the existing lighting motion sensors to create a real-time picture of occupancy in the building, including how recently motion occurred. This information is displayed in a web browser that can be accessed by first responders from any location.
School-Wide Emergency Response: The system should allow immediate, facility-wide action to secure the building.	With a single command, Avi-on sets all lighting at the desired level (usually off) and disables motion sensors and wall stations so that threat actors cannot see where people are based on lights or motion sensor triggers. This fully integrates lighting into the emergency response system and planning.
System Integration: Systems should integrate seamlessly with existing school communication and emergency response plans.	Avi-on can receive lockdown triggers from a contact input, BACnet, API, RS232, and can also trigger an emergency from wall stations and possibly mobile buttons.
Single Sign-On: Authorized personnel should be pre-connected to the system for rapid access.	Single sign-on allows school, fire, police, and other first responders to be pre-connected to the system before an emergency, and to maintain access automatically as personnel change.
Regular Testing: Systems should be tested regularly to ensure full functionality.	With Single Sign-On, users are pre-configured, allowing full operational system testing with no additional effort or cost.

ALICE PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

ALICE Protocol	Avi-on Solution
Alert: "Recognize the signs of danger and communicate the threat immediately."	Avi-on can provide wall-mounted trigger buttons and possibly mobile panic buttons. Avi-on can receive panic messages from other systems through a variety of system interfaces, including BACnet, Contact Closure, and API.
Lockdown: "Secure a room by barricading the door and creating a safe space, allowing time to adapt to the situation."	With a single command, Avi-on sets all lighting at the desired level (usually off) and disables motion sensors and wall stations so that threat actors cannot see where people are based on lights or motion sensor triggers.
Inform: "Share real-time, crucial information about the threat to aid in decision-making for staff and students."	Avi-on uses the existing lighting motion sensors to create a real-time picture of occupancy in the building, including how recently motion occurred. This is displayed in a web browser that can be viewed by first responders from any location.
Counter: "As a last resort, if escape isn't possible, create distractions and disrupt the attacker's focus."	Turning off and locking the lighting controls makes movement more difficult in the building, and also restricts the ability of the attacker to identify the location of occupants.
Evacuate: "Leave the danger zone as quickly and safely as possible, moving to a designated, secure location."	Avi-on's real-time occupancy picture helps first responders know where to focus evacuation efforts. The remote lighting control allows lighting of specific exit pathways and the ability to change routing in real time as needed. First responders can use the lighting system to signal "all clear" or designate safe vs. unsafe areas.