
Church Security Assessment

Do-It-Yourself

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This Do-It-Yourself Church Security Assessment is the very first step in improving the level of safety and security at your local church. It helps you identify the risks so you can start addressing them.

I have one word of caution for you before you begin. It can be a little disheartening at first when you discover all the risks that need to be mitigated.

Take Heart!!! You are doing the right thing. In my years as a Law Enforcement Officer and Crime Prevention Specialist, I have learned even the smallest effort can stop crime. Installing a light, updating a lock and trimming an over grown bush can pay off in big ways.

After you complete this Church Assessment, please consider using our Training Bundles for your Safety Team of volunteers.



CHURCH SAFETY / SECURITY MINISTRY SHORT ASSESSMENT

SURVEY INFORMATION

CHURCH NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP

KEY CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS

SAFETY/SECURITY DIRECTOR	TELEPHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS

CONDUCTED BY

NAME	TELEPHONE	DATE

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

MEMBERS	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	YOUTH/CHILDREN

STAFF (FULL-TIME)	STAFF (PART-TIME)	VOLUNTEERS

Location:

- Urban
 Suburban
 Rural

Does the church have?

- Day Care
 Gymnasium
 School or Classrooms

Electronic Security Alarm System:

- Yes
 No

Safety/Security Team:

- Yes
 No

Electronic Access Control System:

- Yes
 No

Staff Safety Training Program:

- Yes
 No

Video Surveillance System:

- Yes
 No

Volunteer Safety Training Program:

- Yes
 No

CHURCH

A church is a building or location where a group of people come to perform acts of religious study, honor, or devotion. The term “church” may be used for churches, synagogues, mosques, or temples. It is usually a building intended for the performance of religious services and rituals.

NEIGHBORHOOD

YES NO NA

Are there “crime generators” in the immediate neighborhoods of the church?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Can the church be observed from surrounding facilities and streets?

Comment:

PROPERTY PERIMETER

It is desirable that the church property perimeter or boundaries be clearly defined and recognizable. This can be accomplished by fencing, landscaping, signage, etc.

YES NO NA

Are property boundaries of the church easily recognizable by visual means?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are there signs near the property perimeter directing visitors to appropriate locations for building entry?

Comment:

EXTERNAL GROUNDS

External grounds may include vehicle parking areas, pedestrian walkways, playgrounds or recreational areas, detached storage facilities, open or landscaped areas, etc.

YES NO NA Are designated parking lots or parking areas well lit?

Comment:

YES NO NA Are all sides of the church illuminated by exterior lighting?

Comment:

YES NO NA Are sight lines from the church to playgrounds unobstructed by landscaping, plant growth or other means?

Comment:

YES NO NA Are bushes, shrubbery or other plant growth trimmed in an appropriate manner so as not to serve as a hiding place or a place of concealment?

Comment:

BUILDING PERIMETER

YES NO NA Are visitor entry points clearly identified?

Comment:

YES NO NA Is the designated visitor entry point under the visual supervision of a receptionist or administrative office?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are perimeter pedestrian entryways equipped with full flush metal or solid core doors at least 1 3/4" thick and secured with deadbolt locking devices (where life safety codes do not govern otherwise) and door hinges that do not permit the pins to be removed from the exterior?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are the locks on all building entry points functional and in a good state of repair?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Do exterior door frames have reinforced strike plates secured by at least four (4), 3" screws?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are exterior doors equipped with high quality cylindrical, tapered locks with a deadbolt at least 1" in length?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are operable exterior windows easily locked?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there a clear responsibility for unlocking and locking the church each day?

Comment:

ELECTRONIC INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM

YES NO NA

Does the church have an electronic intrusion detection system?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are there clear signs and/or decals posted on the exterior of the building (doors and windows) indicating the facility is equipped with an intrusion detection system?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is the intrusion detection system centrally monitored?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are the arm/disarm codes for an intrusion detection system changed and re-issued at least annually?

Comment:

INTERNAL BUILDING AREAS

YES NO NA

Are all interior hallways and rooms well lit?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are interior lights within restrooms controlled by wall switches? Restroom lighting should either be controlled by motion detectors or be on continuously via key switches anytime the church is occupied.

Comment:

YES NO NA

Can restroom entry doors be locked from inside the restroom? It is recommended that restrooms not be capable of being locked from the inside.

Comment:

KEY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

YES NO NA

Is there a single person responsible for key issuance and record keeping?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there an accurate record of who has been issued church keys?

Comment:

CHURCH PROPERTY INVENTORY

YES NO NA

Is the responsibility for church property inventory assigned to a specific staff member?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Have the serial numbers and model numbers been recorded for easy identification? (Hint: Photograph Item and product plate)

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there a written (preferably computerized) inventory of all church property and equipment of value?

Comment:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SECURITY

YES NO NA

Is there a church policy that requires a background check of staff and volunteers?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there a policy that requires volunteers to be a member of the church or active in church activities for at least six months before they can be directly involved in children and youth activities?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there a child-tag system or other child check in and check out procedure for the children's ministry and nursery?

Comment:

FINANCIAL SECURITY

YES NO NA

Is there a policy that requires at least three people to be present during the collection and counting of the offering? Are they rotated regularly?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Is there a church policy that no one person has the authority to approve purchases, issue funds and sign checks?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Does a certified public accountant or other qualified outsider conduct an annual audit of church's finances?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Does the church have a UL-approved money safe onsite (bolted to the floor) for the storage of cash funds?

Comment:

CHURCH SAFETY MINISTRY

A Church Safety Ministry is a select group of volunteers and staff who serve the Lord by maintaining a safe and secure environment for worship, prayer and study. The Safety Ministry supports the Church’s primary mission by adding layers of safety to the church’s activities and events.

SAFETY MINISTRY BASICS

YES NO NA

Do you have a designated board or person responsible for the oversight and management of safety and security risks in the church?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Does your church have safety program for staff and volunteers to create awareness and train proper safety and security procedures?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Do you have a written emergency response plan and related policies?

Comment:

SECURITY TEAM BASICS

YES NO NA

Do you have a team of volunteers trained in the basic duties and responsibilities of serving on a church security team?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Have team members undergone a thorough screening, including a criminal background check, applications and interviews?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are team members trained in ethics and conduct, patrol procedures, situational awareness, radio procedures, reporting and forms, suspicious behaviors and calling 911?

Comment:

FIRE SAFETY AND EVACUATIONS

YES NO NA

Does your safety team regularly conduct fire safety inspections of doors, hallways, emergency lights, fire extinguishers, etc?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Does your church conduct annual fire drills?

Comment:

DISRUPTIVE PERSONS

YES NO NA

Does your safety team train for dealing with disruptive persons, protestors, or people suffering from a personal crisis or mental illness?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are members of your safety team trained in verbal de-escalation?

Comment:

USE OF FORCE LAWS

YES NO NA

Does your safety team understand criminal and civil liability?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are members of your safety team trained in use of force and citizen's arrest laws?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Do your security team members follow a set of written guidelines as to how much force may be used against a person in a given situation?

Comment:

MEDICAL RESPONSE

YES NO NA

Does your safety team maintain a fully stocked first-aid kit?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Are members of your safety team trained in basic first aid, CPR, and AED use (if you have AEDs)?

Comment:

ACTIVE SHOOTERS AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

YES NO NA

Does your emergency response plan address of active shooters?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Does your team regularly train in the containment and engagement of an active shooter?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Can your team implement lockdown procedures in the event of an active shooter within the church?

Comment:

FIREARMS ISSUES

YES NO NA

Are they licensed to carry a weapon in your state?

Comment:

YES NO NA

Do you require team members who carry firearms to receive regular, formal weapons training?

Comment:

COURTESY OF SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY

This Security Assessment relied heavily on guidelines provided by the American Crime Prevention Institute and the discontinued website Church Safety (dot) com.

CHECK OUT OUR TRAINING BUNDLES FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS

Follow this Link or Copy and Paste the URL into your browser

<https://www.sheepdogchurchsecurity.com/shop/bundles/>

If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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