
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 Safety Member Certification for your Safety Team of volunteers.



SAFETY / SECURITY MINISTRY

SHORT ASSESSMENT

SURVEY INFORMATION

HOUSE OF WORSHIP 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

Electronic Access Control System:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Video Surveillance System:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Safety/Security Team:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Staff Safety Training Program:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Volunteer Safety Training Program:

☐ Yes ☐ No

CHURCH/HOUSE OF WORSHIP

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 ¾" 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:

SAFETY MINISTRY

A Safety Ministry is a select group of volunteers and staff who serve the congregation 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 ACADEMY

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 SAFETY MEMBER CERTIFICATION

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

<https://sheepdog-church-security.thinkific.com/bundles/complete-church-security-training-system>

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

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(952) 470-7364 (Mon – Fri between 9am and 4pm Central Time Zone)

Decision Tree Safety/Security Issues

