



Increasing Church Safety and Security

Though not every violent act can be prevented, the suggestions offered below can help your church respond more effectively to criminal acts at church and improve your ability to communicate critical information in a crisis situation.

1. Consider establishing a risk management team to assess areas of vulnerability within your church and formulate a risk management plan.
2. Develop a security plan as a part of the overall risk management program
 - a. Consider the use of a security consultant with expertise in church security.
3. Consider establishing a security team.
4. Provide training to church staff, leaders, and volunteers such as deacons, greeters and ushers on topics of safety and security.
5. Ensure that all staff know of and understand the church's security plan.
6. Do not allow staff to work alone or in isolated situations. Always ensure that there are at least two employees present at all times.
7. Establish an internal distress code that will alert others in the office to your need for assistance.
8. Keep all church doors locked except when in use and then limit access points as much as possible.
9. Consider installation of a "panic button" for frontline workers such as receptionists.
10. Ensure adequate lighting is provided for the interior and exterior of all buildings, parking lots, and walkways.
11. Ensure that staff and volunteers that leave the premise after dark park their vehicles in well-lit and visible areas.
12. Make sure that all staff, leaders and volunteers know the location of telephones, exits, and escape routes.
13. Prepare for the worst case scenario.

These suggestions are provided to spur discussion and consideration about safety in your local church. Using these suggestions is no guarantee against an act of violence. However, addressing these issues will help you prepare for the unexpected.

If you would like to know more, or would like to find out about "ASSIST" program, contact InDev as 1-866-930-1836 or www.indevinc.com