

Safety Team - House of Worship Startup Guide



www.churchsafetyguys.com

Notes:

1.) INSURANCE COMPANY • Contact church insurance company and ask them to review the current policy with you. • Ask if they have resources or guidelines for starting a team. • Ask if the church policy has any guidelines for use of force or firearm use. • What is the coverage for ministries serving on and off church campus (property)? • Is there any specific coverage that they recommend for a safety team?	2.) ATTORNEY/LEGAL COUNCIL • Does your church have legal representation? • Ask them for their guidance on a safety team. • Make someone in charge of the team a statutory agent of the church.	5.) BUILDING/CAMPUS ASSESSMENT • Understand the defining areas of the building campus and it's local community (CPTED). • Have a certified CPTED Professional do an assessment of the church campus. • Identify proper placement of team members all over the campus. • Create policies and procedures. • Create roles and responsibilities for volunteers. • Review and plan for special events for different resources needed.	6.) MINISTRY EQUIPMENT • List basic equipment necessary for your church. • Is there specific training necessary for the equipment? • Identify equipment goals based on community and ministry needs. • Identify what is necessary vs. what is helpful.	9.) ALWAYS TRAINING • Review Core vs Elective training necessary for your team. • Determine team training guidelines for topics and schedule through the year. • Don't be burdensome with training goals for volunteers. • Reviewing training needs remember that everyone may have the same requirements, but everyone learns at different levels. • Document and record training. • Ensure everyone volunteering has a background check. • Follow and design an onboarding and offboarding process for volunteers.
4.) ENGAGED LEADERSHIP • Building open communication the leadership structure/team of the church. • Develop relational equity with leadership. • What is the best way to keep your team individually and collectively engaged to serve? • How do you keep them motivated to serve and care for their physical and spiritual growth? • Are volunteers being challenged mentally, physcially, spiritually? • Discipleship program should be established to care for volunteers.	3.) MINISTRY FIRST • Discuss and focus on the mission statement of the church. • Establish vision for a team connected to the mission of the church. • Establish a chain of command or leadership structure.		7.) COMMUNITY RELATIONS • Review general operation practices for local public safety. • Invite the Fire or Police Department to use the campus for training activites or a walk through assessment. • Consider having community appreciation events and include public safety officials.	
	8.) OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE • Regularly review (annually) policies and procedures. • Volunteers should be trained to policies and procedures. • What can you do to build a solid relationship between safety volunteers and church leadership? • How can you support other ministries in the church in a positive, engaging way? • Ensure high standards of ethics, and integrity. • Balance the ministry needs along with the needs of volunteers.			

For more resources check out the Church Security App (churchsecurityapp.com) or 4 Pillars of Church Safety & Security (on Amazon).

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Safety Team - Protecting the Impact



1. CHURCH DYNAMICS IN THE COMMUNITY • What is the perception of the church in community? • What is the social media presence of the church online and in the community? • Does your church receive media attention often? • Does your church have an active plan or strategy for handling media attention? • How many social media channels does your church actively use? • Is there a dedicated person for handling all social media or media attention?	2.) DYNAMICS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP • Understand the leadership structure of the church. • Who makes active decisions in your church leadership? • How does your church handle special guests or event security? 3.) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES • Assemble a plan for interacting with guests or key speakers during emergencies. • Review guest speaker or key note influence in the community or on social media. • Annually review policies and procedures to update accordingly.	4.) DYNAMICS OF CHURCH PASTOR/PRIEST • Understand the church leader’s background and educational influences. • Evaluate and understand their teaching/preaching style. • Who are their friends and who do they normally associate with? • What is their social media habits? • What is their counseling schedule during the week? • Are there job functions that could potentially place them in danger? • What is the church leader known for when they and their family go on vacation? • Do you have an active team that is trained to shadow or escort the church leaders when necessary?	5.) DYNAMICS OF THE SERVICE • How does the service generally function or operate? • Who has immediate access to church leaders or staff during the day? • Are there service activities that put them in direct contact or potential risk with individuals? 6.) DYNAMICS OF SPECIAL EVENTS • Does the special event open the facility or campus up to the community or a specific demographic in the community? • If it’s a concert or public event, what are the inherent risks associated with it? • Do those involved with the special event have any active threats or current social media concerns?	7.) DYNAMICS OF PEOPLE INTERACTING • Watch the body language of those interacting with key church leaders. • Maintain personal space around the leader to have a reactionary gap. • Listen to the tone and dialogue of the conversation between people. • Watch for visual ques of the church leader being uncomfortable or at ease. • Any individual that talks with church leaders- evaluate their hands and what they are doing with them, along with their breathing. • Be prepared to quickly intervene or respond. • If possible, discuss potential concerns beforehand. • If conversation becomes agresive, recommend a different time or place to interact.
8.) SOCIAL MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS Be involved with social media outlets regularly (minimally once a week). Have a designated person that can renew the ebb and flow of conversation. Be present with every social media outlet (not just Facebook). Review the content that is being discussed online and "google" your church often. Regularly evaluate reviews and discussion being left on Google regarding your church. Do not actively engage with a dispute online. Give a somewhat generic response and offer to discuss in person to de-escalate or solve the problem.			9.) OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE. What are some habits that your leadership team regularly does? Does your leadership follow the same schedule every Sunday or service day? What can you do to help them alter their patterns? Does your leadership have a big social media presence individually? What are their active considerations? Protecting the brand/unity of the place of worship. Who is specifically responsible for leadership protection? Do they have a preference on who is with them? What training do they need to be effective at executive protection?	



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