

# Security Guide For Your Church

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The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently released the *Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship* guide, finding between 2009 and 2019, 37 incidents of targeted violence in Houses of Worship (HoW) occurred where 64 people lost their lives and another 59 people suffered injuries. Acts of targeted violence against HoWs are a real, and potentially growing, problem in the United States and a top priority for CISA. As the Nation's risk advisor, CISA prepared this comprehensive security guide based on original analysis to help HoW develop a comprehensive security strategy to mitigate future incidents.

The guide and accompanying fact sheet can be found at [cisa.gov/publication/mitigating-attacks-houses-worship-security-guide](https://cisa.gov/publication/mitigating-attacks-houses-worship-security-guide) and includes the following recommendations:

- Establish a multi-layered plan for security, identifying clear roles and responsibilities for developing and implementing security measures.
- Create emergency action plans, business continuity plans, and incident response plans that are well communicated and exercised with the Safety Team for complete understanding.
- Conduct a vulnerability assessment to understand the risks to the HoW from which you may prioritize implementing any subsequent safety measures.
- Build community readiness and resilience by establishing an organizational culture of caring where all members and visitors are properly supported, and credible threats are reported through previously identified channels.



- Apply physical security measures to monitor and protect the outer, middle, and inner perimeters, while respecting the purpose of each area of the HoW.
- Focus on the safety of children by implementing safety measures around childcare, daycare, and schools.
- Implement cybersecurity best practices to safeguard important information and prevent a potential cyberattack.

CISA provides a Faith-Based Community Resources website where HoWs are guided through a four-step process to improve the security and safety of congregants and facilities. CISA's *Houses of Worship Self-Assessment* is designed to guide personnel, with little to no security experience, to complete a security assessment. The tool will generate a report from which HoWs identify security measures to implement to improve their security.

The tool and additional HoW resources may be found at [cisa.gov/houses-of-worship](https://cisa.gov/houses-of-worship). Questions can be directed to: [Central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:Central@cisa.dhs.gov).