

Security Resource Guide

We recommend that churches reach out to local authorities to help assess current risks in their area. In addition, congregants should be mindful to report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement. Now more than ever, developing a [disaster preparedness plan](#) is critical. This plan should include all potential incidents (weather, chemical spills, civil unrest, pandemics, etc.). Based on options for consideration provided by the [Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS), we offer the following links and information to help keep your congregation and property safe.

Churches can protect themselves by adopting a comprehensive and multilayered security strategy.

- Be welcoming, but don't be defenseless. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently analyzed incidents from 2009-2019, and discovered several commonly used tactics and methods employed by perpetrators. These tactics point to specific areas of vulnerability that houses of worship can address through the security framework included [within this guide](#).
- Email DHS at Central@cisa.dhs.gov to get the contact information for the Professional Security Advisor (PSA) in your area. You can ask them to perform a free written threat assessment for your church. The PSA can also conduct presentations. Ask your PSA about registering to receive updates from local fusion centers on security threats and trainings being offered from DHS/CISA.
- [Faith Based Organization-Houses of Worship \(FBO-HOW\) resource page developed by CISA](#): This site provides a single point of entry to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance and resources designed to inform your security-based decisions. It includes assessments, trainings, planning, exercises, and other materials focused on the mitigation of a wide range of man-made threats.
- [CISA Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment Tool](#): This resource provides the faith-based community with an easy to use assessment tool that produces a formatted report to identify and address your facility's security concerns.
- [Developing a security plan for your house of worship](#) can be a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be with guidance from the DHS and CISA experts.
- [DHS Virtual Training Registration](#): A 90 day schedule of upcoming trainings. A FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and Password are required to apply. If you don't have a FEMA SID one can be obtained by going to: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>.
- [Confronting Violence in Houses of Worship Webcast](#): Insurance Board partnered with the DHS to provide this webcast from CISA Protective Security Advisors.
- [Learn six steps that can help protect places of worship](#) against potential threats of targeted violence in a cost-effective manner that maintains an open and welcoming environment.
- [Confronting Violence in Houses of Worship](#): Resource for identifying and addressing behaviors and activities that pose a threat.
- [Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis \(IASO\) Standards Organization](#): FB-ISAO support is intended to inform members' situational awareness, preparedness planning and security operations, and to penetrate the decision-making cycle.
- [The Power of Hello Guide for Houses of Worship](#): All church personnel can contribute greatly to enhancing security by understanding how to identify indicators and taking action to safely mitigate the impacts of a potential attack. Additionally, information on de-escalation techniques can be found here: [De-escalation Series | CISA](#).
- [CISA Personal Security Considerations Fact Sheet](#): This document encourages reporting suspicious behavior to thwart an attack. It also contains several easily implementable security measures that can mitigate threats to personal safety.
- [Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship](#): Many incidents occur with no warning; houses of worship should be developing and updating plans and procedures to ensure the safety and security of their congregations, staff, and facilities.
- [Vehicle Ramming Attack Mitigation](#): The use of a vehicle as a weapon is not new. Attacks of this nature require minimal capability, but can have a devastating impact in crowded places with low levels of visible security.
- [Cyber Security Training Exercises](#): The Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE) is now offering free courses to the public. With courses ranging from beginner to advanced levels, you can strengthen or build your cybersecurity skillsets at your own pace and schedule!
- [Translated Active Shooter Resources](#): DHS has developed a series of materials to assist communities in preparing for and responding to an active shooter incident. These have been translated into 17 different languages.
- [Non-profit Security Grant Program](#): Understanding that applying for a grant does not address any immediate security concerns, the grant opportunities available through FEMA/DHS are made available to houses of worship and other nonprofits to assist in updating security risks. Churches may apply for up to \$150K per site for up to three sites.



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