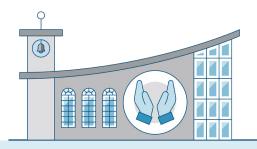


PROTECTING PLACES OF WORSHIP:

SIX STEPS TO ENHANCE SECURITY AGAINST TARGETED VIOLENCE





OVERVIEW

This document outlines actions that faith-based organizations and community leaders can take to increase security. These six steps can help protect places of worship against potential threats of targeted violence in a cost-effective manner that maintains an open and welcoming environment.

PLAN AHEAD

Following these six steps will help places of worship better understand potential risks, prepare a response plan, and pursue additional resources for security.

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IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS

Immediately call 9-1-1. Set the emergency action plan in motion. Every employee and volunteer who has an emergency task should know how and when to perform it; this may include life-saving procedures. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <u>You Are the Help Until Help</u> <u>Arrives</u> curriculum and the Department of Defense <u>STOP THE BLEED®</u> program teach life-saving first aid techniques that should be incorporated into planning efforts. After the emergency, report the incident to your local <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)</u> field office, community groups, and relevant faith-based security organizations.

STEP 1 Understand the Risk

- Review the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) <u>National</u> <u>Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin</u> to understand and monitor national trends and developments.
- Connect with local law enforcement, the local FBI field office, DHS Intelligence Officers within the <u>DHS Fusion Centers</u>, and other places of worship in the area to better understand localized threats.
- Perform a <u>security self-assessment</u> of the facility to determine potential vulnerabilities or contact the local Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) <u>Protective Security</u> <u>Advisor</u> or local law enforcement to conduct the assessment.

STEP 2 Understand Your Space

Evaluate your facility through a <u>layered security approach</u> that considers the outer, middle, and inner perimeters of the building and grounds.

STEP O Develop and Practice a Plan

- Create a security and emergency action plan to <u>document</u>¹ the steps that personnel and volunteers will take to respond if an incident occurs.
- Practice the plan to build muscle memory of the actions that will be taken if an incident occurs.

STEP 4 Inform and Educate Greeters

- Identify suspicious behaviors and possibly prevent a potential attack through <u>de-escalation</u> techniques.
- Recognize signs of terrorism-related suspicious activity and how to <u>Report Suspicious Activity</u> to local law enforcement or a person of authority. Many states also have designated a unique "tip line" to collect reports of terrorism-related suspicious activity.

STEP **5** Pursue Grants

Apply for grants that can provide new resources for security.

STEP 6 Report Hate Crimes and Other Incidents

- <u>Report</u> hate crimes or any other criminal incidents to local law enforcement and the FBI.
- ¹ Example template that may be used for active shooter-specific scenarios.

RESOURCES

Protecting Places of Worship

CISA Faith Based Community Resources: cisa.gov/topics/physical-security/protecting-houses-worship

FBI Active Shooter Safety Resources:

fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources

CISA De-Escalation Series: cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/de-escalation-series

CISA Critical Infrastructure Exercises: cisa.gov/resources-tools/services/stakeholder-exercises

DHS Prevention Resource Finder: <u>dhs.gov/prevention</u>

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hate Crimes Prevention and Enforcement: justice.gov/hatecrimes

DOJ Protecting Places of Worship Program: justice.gov/file/1376571/download



Grants -

DHS Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program: <u>dhs.gov/tvtpgrants</u>

DOJ Grants to Combat Hate Crimes: ojp.gov/doc/fy23-hate-crime-funding.pdf

FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program: fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security

Office of Management and Budget (OMB): grants.gov



Stay Informed

DHS National Terrorism Advisory System: <u>dhs.gov/national-terrorism-advisory-system</u>

DHS TRIPwire (Technical Resource for Incident Prevention): tripwire.dhs.gov

Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Threats Against Houses of Worship Highlight the Importance of Religious Community Outreach: dni.gov/files/NCTC/documents/jcat/firstresponderstoolbox/129S - First Responders Toolbox -Threats Against Houses of Worship Highlight the Importance of Religious Community Outreach.pdf

ODNI US Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators (2021 Edition): dni.gov/files/NCTC/documents/news_documents/Mobilization_Indicators_Booklet_2021.pdf

Suspicious Activities and Incidents

Report Hate Crimes to FBI: <u>tips.fbi.gov</u> 1-800-CALL-FBI

DHS "If You See Something, Say Something®" Campaign: dhs.gov/see-something-say-something



Contacts

CISA Protective Security Advisors (PSAs):

To locate the PSA in your area, contact <u>central@cisa.dhs.gov</u> or visit <u>cisa.gov/resources-tools/programs/protective-security-advisor-psa-program</u> For additional CISA Regional Support, visit <u>cisa.gov/about/regions</u>

DHS Intelligence Officers (IOs): To locate the IO in your area, contact <u>DHS.INTEL.ORI.OMT@hq.dhs.gov</u>

FBI Field Offices: fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices

To access the digital version of this guidance, follow the QR code below:

