



Safe Insight



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How to Keep Your Church Safe

1. **Don't be in denial.** Church violence has been steadily increasing over the past few years. While the percentage of churches with shootings is relatively small, there are a number of other safety matters to consider. You need a security plan in place. The downside is just too great.
2. **Have a church security plan.** This plan should include all issues of security, from active shooters to child abuse. There are professionals that will work with your church and make recommendations
3. **Remember that church security is a ministry more than an expense.** The church has a responsibility to keep members safe and secure. The church or leaders may have to spend money to go to a training seminar, or to retain professional services. Those are investments in security, not expenses.
4. **Organize a church security ministry team.** You need leaders who are passionate about this issue. It is especially helpful if those leaders receive professional training on handling security related situations.
5. **Keep your facilities secure.** Most churches have a number of members with keys and access to the church buildings. It is not unusual for doors to be left open and security to be lax because of the nearly unlimited access. Your church needs clearly controlled hours of operation and clear guidelines on access.
6. **Strive for total member awareness.** Remind your members from time to time that they should watch for anything unusual at the church. Use greeters at different places in the church facility, from the parking lots to the worship center. Greeters should receive awareness training. Those with keen eyes and discernment can save lives.