

PATROL YOUR CHURCH



Your safety and security team is the public expression of your overall safety and security program. According to Brotherhood Mutual's *The Church Safety & Security Guidebook*, the first step is to conduct a thorough safety and security assessment. Then, as you deploy your team, you should make sure they are covering all areas identified by your assessment.

Here are a few things to consider:

WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING PATROLS

In addition to spotting potentially dangerous situations, your team should be trained to look for opportunities to assist and minister to others. **Things to watch for include someone in an area where they don't belong, doors unlocked or open when they shouldn't be, suspicious behavior, property damage, etc.**

SANCTUARY

When you're holding services, you may want to position team members at the front and back of the sanctuary. This gives them line of sight across the entire gathering and allows them to have quick access to the speaker if necessary. You might also consider designating a specific position for your medical responder, too. This helps make sure people know where to go for immediate assistance in the event of a medical emergency.

CHILDREN'S AREA

Protecting and monitoring areas and programs that include children and vulnerable adults should be a priority. Have a team member make rounds in the children's area to provide help as needed.

USHERS, GREETERS AND PARKING CONTROL

Ushers and greeters are the "eyes and ears" of your team. They are often the first to spot situations that may require additional assistance or intervention, so they can alert a response team. Post your ushers and greeters at appropriate entrance and exit points. They can help welcome and guide members and visitors, keep people safe and deter opportunistic criminals. If your team is large enough, you can also position some team members in the parking lot.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Remember that your safety and security team may need to play a role in special activities and events held during times other than Sunday morning. Rotate team member responsibilities to help avoid burnout.

EVALUATING YOUR TEAM |

Whether you are forming a team or already have one in place, consider these questions:

		YES	NEEDS ATTENTION
1	Have we performed a thorough assessment of our church's safety and security needs (including property, people, programs, procedures and prevention)?		
2	Do we have clear policies and procedures in place to recruit, screen, train, deploy and review our safety and security teams?		
3	Have we reached out to local police, fire and rescue and other first responders to coordinate our team's procedures with them?		
4	Are team members trained in their areas of responsibility (including what they are authorized to do and how to get help from other team members)?		
5	Do all team members understand their roles as part of a ministry?		
6	Do we have clearly defined rules for conflict resolution?		
7	Have we consulted with our church attorney and insurance agent about our safety and security ministry and allowed activities?		
8	Does our congregation know how to contact a safety and security team member when needed?		

List provided by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company.

WANT MORE HELP WITH YOUR CHURCH'S SAFETY & SECURITY MINISTRY?

Brotherhood Mutual's *The Church Safety & Security Guidebook* features:

- ▶ A step-by-step instruction manual
- ▶ Over 20 checklists, sample policies and training scenarios
- ▶ A comprehensive sample plan
- ▶ And much more!

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