

August 2022

# THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM SHEEPDOG CHURCH SECURITY



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## TOP NEWS STORY

**TWO POTTSTOWN CHURCHES CITED FOR VIOLATING THE ZONING CODE'S DEFINITION OF 'CHURCH,'**

Two Montgomery County churches have been cited by the Pottstown Borough for violating the zoning code's definition of "church," by offering free meals, collecting and distributing essentials, hosting community food pantries, and providing mental health services.

Source: [CLICK HERE](#)

# TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

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## Severe Weather and Natural Disasters

What would you say is the single greatest threat your church faces? Is it crime from individuals in the surrounding neighborhood? Perhaps it's the threat of abuse for children or at-risk adults within the congregation? Maybe it is the potential for disruptive individuals to enter the church. While all are valid, those are likely not the greatest threats – that title goes to natural disasters.

“This class is an excellent base for understanding and preparing to meet the challenges of such events.”

—Jon Wolland

From fires to flooding to earthquakes, winter storms, droughts, and even volcanic eruptions, nature's awesome power can be devastating to your church's structure, grounds and even congregation. We created the Severe Weather Preparedness module to help guide your Safety Ministry and Church Safety Team in creating procedures and policies to mitigate the threat posed by natural disasters, and to understand these threats in the first place.



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# WEEKLY TEAM BRIEFING

## Storms and Disasters of Various Kinds

### The Theme for July 2022

*He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still (Psalm 107:29).*

The original theme for July is Storms and Disasters. Here's how the weekly articles fit:

*"2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned) and "Face-to-Face with Evil" (Engaging an Active Shooter)* - These two articles deal with the deadly storms of church shootings. The associated training module in the [\*Safety Member Certification\*](#) program is "Active Shooter Response v4."

"2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting" considers the disaster in a small church in a small town. It was inflicted by a violent domestic abuser. The assailant had threatened his in-laws. He carried out his threat during a Sunday morning service, killing 26 people. "Assess threats" is the lesson learned.

"Face-to-Face with Evil" concerns what to do when in the storm of a church shooting. Your response depends on your role (congregant or safety team member) and where you are in relation to the shooter and his movements. For congregants, it is run (evacuate), hide (lockdown), or fight (when there's no escape). For team members, it is contain and engage the shooter.

*"The Who's Who of Child Safety" (Identifying Sexual Offenders)* - Child abuse is a storm in the lives of our most vulnerable members and their families. For individual victims, this is often a personal, life-changing disaster. Unlike weather storms, this one may be prevented by identifying sex offenders to keep our children safe from them. It may also expose those already in the church. The training module is "Protecting Children from Abuse v4," and the recommended resources are [\*Dru Sjodin National Sex Offenders Public Website\*](#) and [\*Protect My Ministry\*](#).

# Weekly Team Briefing Continued

*"Categorically Dangerous" (Hurricane Safety)* - Hurricane season approaches its peak in August and September. These are very dangerous storms. It is a rare hurricane that does not cause at least a few deaths. Hurricanes impact areas farther inland than many people assume. Their remnants can strengthen to full-blown storms. Most often, they bring excessive rain, threatening lives and property with floods and landslides. If a church is in the danger zone, it is better to be prepared before being hit by a hurricane. The relevant training module is "Severe Weather and Natural Disasters," and the Church Security Guide article is "[Preparing for Natural Disasters](#)."

## Action Points

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### For Safety Directors –

- ◆ Urge the church to prepare for how severe storms (such as hurricanes) impact your community. This may include strengthening buildings, sheltering evacuees, and backing up records.
- ◆ See to it that safety team members are trained and certified, including severe weather safety.

### For Safety Team Members –

- ◆ Be trained and certified, and practice severe weather safety.

# 2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting

A MONTHLY FEATURE LOOKING AT CHURCH SHOOTING INCIDENTS

## From the Bible

\* This episode in the Bible was in a sense domestic discord provoking murder in a place of worship (the Tabernacle at Nob). King Saul was jealous of his son-in-law and accused the priests of conspiring with him.

***And the king said to Doeg, "Turn thou, and fall upon the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword. ...***

***And David said unto Abiathar," I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house" (1 Samuel 22:18; 22:22).***

## Introduction

Domestic violence and mental health are the two leading causative factors in active killer attacks on churches. Many of these incidents have both, with mental illness or a personality disorder generating often-violent domestic discord. The FBC Sutherland Springs shooting stemmed from domestic violence, and the shooter had a long, troubled history indicating a personality disorder and/or mental illness.

## Videocast and Show Notes

This Church Shooting article is discussed by Kris Moloney in a [videocast](#) (the audio will be in a [podcast](#)). You can subscribe to the videocasts.[2] Below the video window is a link to the [Lessons Learned Notes](#) (Church Shooting Lessons Learned Download). This link is active for a month - until the next Church Shooting article is posted.[3]

## A Targeted Church

It was the first Sunday of November 2017. The pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas and his wife were in Oklahoma. Their 14-year old daughter was left home so she wouldn't miss school.

The speaker that morning was a visiting preacher who brought his family: five children and his pregnant wife. This Sunday, some in the congregation were elsewhere. Unknown to them at that time, it was just as well.

### *"Everybody Dies!"*

About 11 o'clock, a black pickup truck parked nearby. Twenty minutes later the driver emerged, wearing black clothing, body armor, and a black ski mask with a white skull, and pulled out a Ruger rifle. He shot and killed two persons outside, then began firing at the building, knocking out windows. He entered through a back door.

Inside the sanctuary, when bullets came through the windows, attenders began taking cover, mostly under pews. For most of them, this would be scant concealment and poor cover. The assailant would use his military training to search and destroy his targets. He announced his intent with, "Everybody dies!"

He walked up and down the aisle, looking for targets. In all the noise, babies began crying. According to survivors, the shooter followed their cries. A couple who survived played dead. The service was being recorded, and the video showed how methodical the killer was. More could have been shot, but the shooter heard a shout from outside the front door, which was now open, and went outside to confront whoever it was.

### *The Chase*

Stephen Willeford lived next door. His daughter alerted him to the sounds of gunfire at the church. An NRA instructor, he grabbed his rifle and headed outside. In an exchange of fire, he wounded the assailant who came out to confront him. The killer ran to his truck, got in, and sped away. Willeford ran to a pickup at a stop sign, told the driver that the driver of the black truck had just shot up the church. He got in and they took off in pursuit.

Racing northwest on the highway at 95 mph, they stayed on the tail of the shooter while Willeford called 911, keeping authorities updated on the shooter's location. On a curve, the attacker missed the turn, hit a sign, and careened into a ditch. The pursuers kept the black truck covered until law enforcement arrived.

Arriving officers found the driver slumped over, dead. The medical examiner found three bullet wounds: one in a leg, one in the torso, and one in the head. According to him, the headshot was evidently self-inflicted with a handgun. More weapons and ammunition were found in the truck.

## *The Toll*

Twenty-six persons were killed at FBC Sutherland Springs (two outside) and 20 more were injured. So far, this is the most killed in a church shooting in the United States. The dead included the visiting preacher and his family (eight, including the unborn child), the pastor's daughter, and the killer's grandmother-in-law.

## **A Misfit Missed**

The Sutherland Springs church shooter could be called a misfit.

## *Early Trouble*

The assailant did not grow up in Sutherland Springs, but close to San Antonio. He was suspended many times in high school. Infractions included insubordination, drugs, profanity, and falsification of records. Other students described him as strange, weird, and an outcast, but popular with other outcasts.

One former classmate called him "the first atheist I met." However, another one, who had known him longer, said that in middle school he was involved in church and a believer in God. It appears that somewhere he had turned against God, going downhill from there. This raises some spiritual questions. Young people may be active in church, but not spiritually anchored.

Here also is the question of the development of mental illness. It often becomes more pronounced in adolescence, especially schizophrenia. Then too, certain personality disorders, such as Defiant-Obstructive Disorder, may become more evident during this time. What we are lacking in this case is a reliable professional diagnosis.

\* This sounds too much like the [Colorado YWAM/New Life](#) shooter.[4]

It was reported that there was a yellow flag on his court records, signifying possible psychiatric issues.

## *In and Out of the Air Force*

After high school, in 2010, the FBC assailant enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in New Mexico. This was also rocky. Some of the personnel who worked with him said he was in and out of trouble. His record included threatening superiors, smuggling arms onto the base, threatening to kill himself, etc. For a while he was committed to a mental hospital. He escaped, but was caught and returned.

The last infraction was a criminal one, resulting in a court martial. He married in 2011. His wife had a son from a previous relationship. In 2012 he assaulted her and also hit her son, cracking his skull.

A court martial convicted him of domestic abuse with serious injury and sentenced him to 12 months of confinement followed by a dishonorable discharge. This conviction should have barred him from ever buying firearms. However, Air Force personnel failed to submit this to the national database for firearm background checks. Years later, this would tragically come to light.

While the shooter was in confinement his wife divorced him.

### *Back Home, More Trouble*

Now out of the service, the suspect moved back to his hometown. We do not know what his state of mind was at that time, but it would return to a troubled state.

Sometime after returning, he married a young woman who grew up in Sutherland Springs and was a member of the First Baptist Church. Sometimes he attended church there with her and her family. We do not know how often, but it was enough for the members to know him. Whatever their first impression was, they became uneasy with his presence. A hostile relationship developed with his in-laws. He began sending threatening messages to his mother-in-law. The last one was received the morning of the attack. She was not in church that day, but her mother was.

The suspect had been able to buy several guns. As in high school, he again falsified records, answering "No" on the question of disqualifying convictions. Since the court martial had not been submitted to the national database, he passed and got the guns and ammo.


He set up a firing range in a farm field. Neighbors complained about the noise of the shooting. He told someone he wanted to adopt dogs from a shelter to use for target practice.

The last week of October, FBC had a Fall Festival. The suspect came dressed in black and acting strangely. His demeanor made several uneasy.

### **After the Gunsmoke Cleared**

The massacre at FBC Sutherland Springs made news around the world, with articles and reports in English from Britain, Australia, Nigeria, and India, and in local languages from India, Nigeria, and other areas such as East Asia, Africa, and continental Europe. What made it so sensational were the violation of sanctity, the number killed, and the targeting of children and infants. Particularly dismaying was the missed submission of the court martial to the database, which allowed the perpetrator to legally buy weapons and ammunition.





The town of Sutherland Springs and the State of Texas were in shock, even as Uvalde and Texas are now in the wake of a school shooting. Questions were asked of how this happened and how it might have been prevented or mitigated. In hindsight, authorities and media on all political sides agreed that the missing court martial in the Federal database was a contributing factor. There also came a new focus on mental illness and personality disorders.

Families of slain victims sued the U.S. Air Force for negligence.

### *Rebuilding*

The congregation of First Baptist Church received a lot of sympathy and emotional and spiritual support from the Southern Baptist Convention, other Christian groups, and individuals. Contributions also enlarged their building fund, and they built a new sanctuary and educational wing on property they owned on the opposite side of the block. The sanctuary where the shooting took place was cleaned, repaired, and made into a memorial for those who died. They deepened their faith in God, and the congregation grew.

### *Security*

One important change was in security. FBC Sutherland Springs now has a trained security team. Security policies and procedures are in place. The facilities now have security cameras and doors resistant to forced entry. Threat assessment serves both as a security measure and as a window to minister to persons of risk.

## **Lesson Learned: Assess Threats**

The lesson learned from the 2017 Sutherland Springs church shooting is Assess Threats. How is this done? By keeping in touch with local officials, being open to the concerns of church members, and assessing actual and potential threats.

\* Note: This is not to criticize church leaders in Sutherland Springs, but to learn from this incident. They learned and now assess threats.

## *In Touch with Local Officials*

By keeping open our lines of communication with local officials - law enforcement, judicial, and social services - we are more likely to receive notification of actual and suspected threats to the security of the congregation. Some of these might be of persons we do not know, but have raised concerns of violence against places of worship in the community. Some may have expressed or hinted at a desire to shoot up a church, perhaps even ours. Social media postings may disclose a leaning toward that activity in a resident of the area. We never know when a heads-up may be a life saver.

## *Openness to Church Members' Concerns*

In Sutherland Springs, a member of the church had been receiving threats from her son-in-law. News stories do not say whether she shared these threats with church leaders. The last threat came the morning of the shooting, but the pastor was out-of-town. Who could she tell of the threat? Persons in the congregation should know that they could report a threat to any of a number of persons. That way, if one of them is not available, someone else is.

## *Threat Assessment Team*

Apparently, this situation had been building up for some time. Several members of the church were uneasy about the man who became the shooter. There was some reason for suspicion, and the pastor was wary. This warranted discussion by a threat assessment team.

Following the Uvalde, Texas, school shooting the governor of Ohio proposed enhanced school security measures. The law he asked the legislature to enact includes mandating threat assessment teams for every school district or school.[21]

A church should have a threat assessment team. This could be formal or informal. A formal team has set members who meet regularly and when needed. In an informal threat assessment team, church leaders discuss concerns when they come up. Meetings should include pastors, ministry leaders, and the church security director.

## *Acting on a Threat*

If church leaders at FBC had known of the threat made that morning, they could have requested law enforcement protection. The Wilson County Precinct 3 Constable's Office is only five blocks away. One or more deputies could have been assigned to watch the church. They could have stopped the shooter when he pulled the Ruger rifle out of his truck. Likewise, with a threat of that level, we can request law enforcement protection.

## Conclusion

Church leaders should be ready to receive and confirm threats of violence and take necessary measures. This is the role of a Threat Assessment.

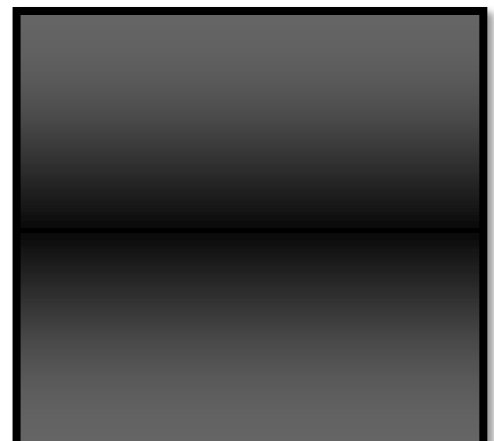
## Training Notes

Church safety teams are encouraged to train and certify all their members through the [Safety Member Certification](#) program of Sheepdog Church Security. Team Certification (classroom), Individual Certification (online training), and Online Events (live Zoom classes) are the available formats.[1]

## There Is More

This is the first of four July articles. The other three are "Face-to-Face with Evil" (Engaging an Active Shooter), "The Who's Who of Child Safety" (Identifying Sexual Offenders), and "Categorically Dangerous" (Hurricane Safety).

## [Article References](#)



# FACE-TO-FACE WITH EVIL

## Engaging an Active Shooter

### Introduction

Ready Houston, the emergency management agency of Houston, TX, produced the video Run, Hide, Fight, which is now hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to teach ordinary people how to respond to an active shooter. If an active killer came into your church, most persons there should either run or hide, but fight if confronted by the gunman.



The role is different for members of a safety or security team. Rather than run or hide, they must engage the killer. Whether you're a safety team member or just a congregant, when you confront an active killer you are face-to-face with the evil they intend to do.

### In the News

There have been several deadly attacks in churches where people in the church engaged and stopped the assailant. Here are six of them from 1980 to 2022.

*Dangerfield, Texas, June 22, 1980* - A former school teacher burst into the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church in Daingerfield on the Sunday before his trial for sexual imposition. Dressed in military attire and heavily armed, he shouted, "This is war!" and began firing. After he'd wounded several, two ushers grabbed him in a double bear hug and forced him outside. All the while he fired a pistol, fatally wounding them. Three of those wounded inside died, bringing the death toll to five. Had it not been for the ushers, there would have been more fatalities.[2]

In 2012, HeartStone Pictures released [\*Faith Under Fire\*](#), a docudrama of the incident and how those in the church and the community dealt with it over the next ten years. [3]

Colorado Springs, Colorado, December 9, 2007 - A young man who had killed two persons and wounded two others at the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) training center in Arvada, returned home, then later drove 70 miles south to the New Life Community Church in Colorado Springs. Meanwhile, police executed a search warrant on his home. They warned the New Life security team that the YWAM shooter might target the church.

At New Life, about 12 hours after the YWAM shooting, the attacker waited until people began leaving the morning service. He set off smoke bombs he'd placed by entrances and began shooting in the parking lot, killing two sisters and wounding two others, including the girls' father. Then he entered the church, where security team members were waiting for him. One shot and wounded him when he raised his rifle to fire at another team member. He then took his own life with his handgun.[4]

Antioch, Tennessee, September 24, 2017 - A former member of Burnette Chapel Church of Christ pulled into the parking lot and waited for the service to end. He shot and killed a woman who had just left the service, then went in firing, wounding six. An usher rushed the shooter and wrestled him for the gun. It fired, wounding the gunman who was then held for police.[5]

White Settlement, Texas, December 29, 2019 - A man in disguise came into the West Freeway Church of Christ and sat down. During Communion, he stood up, pulled a short shotgun from his coat, and killed two men. The security team leader took out his pistol, aimed, and waited for a clear shot. He fired once, downing the gunman six seconds after he'd pulled out the shotgun.[6]

Nashville, Tennessee, November 7, 2021 - While people were at the altar near the end of the evening service at the Nashville Light Mission Pentecostal Church, a man sitting in front stood up, went to the pulpit, and waved a handgun while shouting. The pastor, who was praying with someone, got up and tackled the gunman from behind. Other members moved in and held the man down until police arrived.[7]

Laguna Woods, California, May 15, 2022 - A Taiwanese man resentful of the Taiwanese government drove from his home in Las Vegas, Nevada, to Laguna Woods, California. There he went to the morning service of the Taiwanese Presbyterian congregation. He placed a bag of firebombs and a bag of ammunition in the room, then sat silently in the back.

This service featured a pastor who'd just returned from Taiwan. Following the service was a luncheon with the pastor. The visitor locked the doors, then pulled out a handgun, threatening congregants. One member, a doctor, rushed him. The gunman fired several rounds, killing him. The pastor grabbed a chair and hit the gunman. Others tackled the assailant, then tied him up with extension cords.[8]

## Videocast and Show Notes

Kris discusses the subject of this article in a videocast on the YouTube channel [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) - the audio is in a podcast. You can subscribe to this channel to not miss any videocasts. Beneath the video window is a link to the Show Notes - an article summary. This is a PDF you download. It can be printed and shared with others. The Show Notes are available for one week - until the next videocast is posted.[9]

### From the Bible

***The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy ... (John 10:10a).***

***If a thief be found breaking [in], and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him (Exodus 22:2).***

***The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways (Deuteronomy 28:7).***

***... in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, ... The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities ... to lay hands on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people (Esther 9:1b-2).***

***He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man (Psalm 18:48).***



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# When Evil Invades the Sanctuary

Murder is evil, so when someone intent on murder enters the church, evil has come into the sacred place, the sanctuary. Whoever confronts this intentional killer comes face-to-face with evil.

How people confront the killer depends on their role and their situation. We'll classify people as congregants and the Church Safety Team.

## *Congregants*

When it is known that an active killer (shooter) is in the church, the primary response for those who can is to evacuate. If they cannot evacuate in time, then they are to hide. If in a room that can be locked and/or barricaded, then this is a lockdown. If the killer comes into where they are, it's time to fight.

First distract and confuse the shooter. Yell and scream. Throw any objects you can. Pick up something to strike him. Then swarm him - numbers are on your side. Tackle him. Grab his arms. Someone wraps their arms around his legs. Do whatever it takes to stop the shooting (or swinging the knife or machete). Notice that defenders used firearms in only two of the six stories.

## *Team*

The Church Safety Team separates into two groups, the Containment Team and the Engagement Team. Your role will depend on where you are at the moment.

Containment - The containment team might not all be in the same place. They put themselves in place to keep the killer from going into certain areas, such as child care and nursery, Sunday School classrooms, the Senior Center, etc. If they can, they position themselves where they can fire from cover. They can wait for the killer to come around a corner.

Engagement - This unit tracks the killer, ready to return fire. They will push the killer into a fatal funnel where he cannot escape. If he's still firing, they can follow the sound. If gunshots have stopped, that does not mean he is down. He might be waiting for them to come around the corner, so they proceed with caution. If the hallways are covered by cameras, the team member monitoring them can let them know where he is and if he's still an active threat.

If the killer gives up (maybe his gun jammed), be prepared to restrain him with zip ties or handcuffs. If there are casualties, medical response will be given when safe to do so.

Training and Drilling - Safety teams need to train for containing and engaging an active killer.

- ◆ Cross-train armed safety team members for both containment and engagement.
- ◆ Drill for various scenarios. You can cover more than one scenario in a drilling session. What is your role if the killer is here and you are there?
- ◆ Have more than one drilling session in a year, maybe each quarter.
- ◆ Have all members who carry regularly practice marksmanship and tactical shooting on the range.

## Conclusion

What will you do if you find yourself face-to-face with an active killer in your church?  
How will you engage him?

## Training Note

Every member of a Church Safety Team is encouraged to be trained and certified through the [Safety Member Certification](#) program. Those who take all the courses and pass each certification test are Certified Safety Members for two years. Among the training modules is "Active Shooter Response v4." A course in Mass Trauma Response will soon be added.[1]

Training is available in three formats:

- ◆ Church-hosted classes (Team Certification)
- ◆ Self-paced online instruction (Individual Certification)
- ◆ Live Zoom classes (Online Events)

Related reading material is the Church Security Guide article "Church Safety Teams and Active Shooter Training." It is an overview of active shooter response which can be used to prep for the training module and later be a refresher.[10]

## There Is More

This is the second weekly article in July. The other three are "2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned), "The Who's Who of Child Safety" (Identifying Sexual Offenders), and "Categorically Dangerous" (Hurricane Safety).

## [Article References](#)



# THE WHO'S WHO OF CHILD SAFETY

## Identifying Sexual Offenders

### Introduction

Many of us know about "Who's Who" books and lists. These are periodically-updated lists of notable people, especially prominent persons in society, often with biographies. This began in Great Britain in 1849, and has spread to other countries around the world.[3] Now there are "Who's Who" lists about persons in various fields of endeavor, including crime, and even of cartoon and comic book characters.

For protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults from abuse, we could use a "Who's Who" of sexual offenders. Now we have the equivalent in the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website.[1]

### In the News

Chicago, Illinois, prior to the COVID Pandemic - Watchful church personnel noticed a visitor who seemed suspiciously over interested in children. One of them greeted the man and engaged him in conversation. Now having his name, gauging his age, and knowing where he was from, they conducted a search and learned that he was a registered sex offender. They contacted him and referred him to a church which has a program that ministers to sexual offenders.[4]

Nationwide, August 2019 - A Fox News story disclosed that sex offenders are still getting into volunteer and staff positions in churches. This happens, even though more churches using background checks to screen applicants for staff and volunteer positions. Many churches settle for light and inexpensive checks, while insurance companies and security experts recommend more in-depth checks through service providers who re-screen regularly and extend searches to local levels (county and city).

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them  
(Romans 16:17).

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them  
(Matthew 7:20).

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision  
(Philippians 3:2).

Sometimes data in the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) is not up-to-date (though it is a good start in the search) because many states and local jurisdictions do not submit their data in a timely manner. Additionally, there are legal reasons why some cases are not entered, including plea deals for lesser charges.[5]

A case in point is a man registered as a sex offender in both Florida and Alabama who became a minister in a Florida church (in a town other than where he was registered). A tip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children led to his arrest for child pornography. Alabama's registry was non-responsive at the time of his arrest (system error), Florida had not updated the data entered into the National Sex Offender Registry (he was still listed as in jail), and that man had failed to register locally when he'd moved.[6]

## Videocast, Podcast, and Show Notes

The subject of this article is discussed in a videocast on the YouTube channel [Sheepdog Church Security Academy](#) (the audio is in a [podcast](#) on Sound Cloud). Kris Moloney applies his experience in church security as well as that of an officer in the military and in law enforcement. Besides weekly articles, Kris also covers [Lessons Learned from Church Shootings](#) and has [Sheepdog Interviews](#) with other experts in church security. Subscribe to this channel so you do not miss any programs.[7]

In the comment section below the video screen is a link to the Show Notes (an article summary). This PDF can be downloaded and printed to share with others.

## What Offenders Are in Our Community?

Laws in several states require prison systems to notify victims of violent crimes when the perpetrators are released, whether they've completed their sentences or are paroled. Similarly, a person convicted of sex crimes is required to register as a sex offender in that state and in the local jurisdiction of residence. When moving, the offender should register at the new address. Failing to register at a new address is a crime.



Sex offender registries are used by organizations screening applicants to see whether they are registered offenders. These same organizations and citizens concerned for their own safety and that of their children can find out what offenders are in their areas and how close they are.

## *Before You Check*

When a person is applying for a position, either paid or volunteer, by law we must inform them that we conduct background checks, and before we do one they must sign a form acknowledging that they know there will be a background check and that they agree to it.

## *The National Registry*

In the case of [Dru Sjodin](#), Grand Forks, North Dakota (the city where she studied and worked) was on the state line, and her assailant lived and was registered in the next state (Minnesota). Therefore, the university, city law enforcement, and mall security could not be alerted to his presence. If the national registry had been publicly available in 2003, as it is now, police and security in Grand Forks could have seen what registered sex offenders (RSOs) lived within a certain radius and have gotten his photos and description. There would then have been a chance that someone would have recognized him, especially since he had been there often. After all, frequently sitting in the mall watching women would be suspicious behavior, especially for an RSO - and this was recorded by security cameras.[8]

## *A Church That Used It*

The news story from Chicago shows one way this works for churches. The man who visited was not an applicant for volunteer work, but observant church staff and volunteers considered his behavior suspicious. A friendly introduction gathered enough information for a search by name on the NSOPW, and they discovered he was a RSO. Fortunately they had a way to both protect their children and direct him to spiritual help.

## *Your Church Can Use It*

Congregational leadership, especially in the children's ministry, the youth ministry, and the church safety ministry, can also use the [NSOPW](#) to find out what RSOs are within a certain distance from the church. According to the NSOPW, these are primarily those "who, in most cases, have been convicted of sexually violent offenses against adults and children and certain sexual contact and other crimes against victims who are minors." [9]

\*Note: it says "in most cases." Depending on the original jurisdictions, this may or may not include certain actions, and plea deals can reduce the level of charges.

The best results are available by selecting "[All Registries](#)." Here you select your state, territorial, or tribal jurisdiction.

## *My Test Run in Ohio*

As a test, I searched within 5 miles of the address of my church in Ohio (for Ohio the radiuses to choose from are 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, and 5 miles). Nine RSOs live in this radius, 12 work or volunteer there, and none attend school or have other kinds of addresses in this circle. Combining the kinds of addresses, there are 21 offenders in 19 locations (two work in one location and three in another). There is also a link to Non-Mappable Offenders in Ohio.

On the list is a photo of each offender with the address and the level of the offense. These levels are specified in the Adam Walsh Act of July 27, 2006 (AWA): Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III. Offenses committed before this law are marked Pre-AWA.

Clicking on a name brings up specific information about each offender, including a detailed description of the person, the offense, gender and age group of the victim(s), date of conviction, and date of release from custody.

## *Checking Other States*

Testing offender searches in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Arizona highlighted the differences between states. Familiarize yourselves with your state's sex offender registry. If your locality is near to or on the state line, also familiarize yourselves with the other state's registry.

## **Beyond the Registries**

Checking national and state sex offender registries is a good place to start to identify RSOs who are in your area or who apply to work for the church, whether as volunteers, staff, or pastors, or - as at the church in Chicago - exhibit suspicious behaviors. This may immediately identify concerns with a certain person.

However, RSO registries do have limits, and going beyond this lookup may be more than what your people can do. What if the applicant's record is not yet there or reduced charges keep the offender(s) off the list?

## *Screening Organizations*

There are organizations specializing in personnel screening for churches and Christian ministries. One of these is [Protect My Ministry](#) (PMM). Besides the national criminal search and the national sex offender search, it also does County Criminal Records Search, Statewide Criminal Records Search, and District Federal Criminal Records (for your U.S. District Court). When there's negative information, it also performs re-verification to know whether it really applies to your applicant (it may be someone else with the same name).

An important service of PMM is continuous monitoring to catch any events posted or happening after the person has started working at the church. Your church can sign up with [Protect My Ministry](#) as a Sheepdog Church Security affiliate.[10]

### *Identifying Possible Offenders by Observation*

The behavior of children may indicate possible sexual abuse, and the behavior of adults or youth may raise concerns that someone is an actual or potential sex offender. There are warning signs of each. Under the NSOPW's "Safety and Education" tab is the section "How to Identify." Two of the sub-sections are "Concerns about a Child or Teen Who May Be Acting Out Sexually" and "Concerns about an Adult's Interest in Children, or Your Own." [11]

### *Warning Signs of Abused Children and Youth*

There is a normal rate of development by children of interest in and knowledge of their bodies, as well as their interest in sex (especially of how babies are made). When children appear to know more than what is normal for their stage of development, this is cause for concern. The natural question is, "How did this boy or girl get to know this much about sex?" This is especially concerning when they appear to be acting out sexually. From the NSOPW page, here are the warning signs:

- ◆ Behaviors clearly beyond the child's developmental stage
- ◆ Actions involving threats, force or aggression
- ◆ Inappropriate or harmful use of sexual body parts
- ◆ Sexualized actions between children of widely different ages (4 years or more) or abilities
- ◆ Strong emotional reactions in a child, such as anger or anxiety, especially in reaction to a particular person or event
- ◆ Sexual behaviors that interfere with typical childhood interests and activities

Get professional help if these signs are observed. Childcare workers, teachers, and youth leaders should report these concerns to the pastoral staff, ministry leaders, and the Church Safety Director. Why to more than one person? What if one of these persons is involved? Then another person can investigate and report this to the proper authorities.

## *Warning Signs of Sex Offenders*

Sex offenders most often exhibit telltale behavior patterns. Some of these can be by persons who are not sex offenders, but have a pull in that direction (in this case they need help) - some of these adults may have been abused when young. Here are NSOPW's "Adult Behavior Warning Signs" -

- ◆ Ignoring social, emotional or physical boundaries or limits, making others uncomfortable
- ◆ Ignoring limits set by a child/teen or keeping a child/teen from setting a limit, especially using teasing or belittling language in the process
- ◆ Insisting on physical contact (hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding) when the child/teen doesn't want it
- ◆ Turning to a child/teen for emotional or physical comfort by sharing personal or private information or activities that are normally shared with adults
- ◆ Frequently pointing out sexual images or telling inappropriate or suggestive jokes with children/teens present
- ◆ Repeatedly exposing a child/teen to adult sexual interactions
- ◆ Having "secret" interactions with children/teens (e.g., games, secret gifts, sharing drugs, alcohol or sexual material) or spending excessive time emailing, texting or calling children/teens
- ◆ Being overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child/teen (e.g., talks repeatedly about the child's developing body or interferes with normal teen dating)
- ◆ Spending unusual amounts of uninterrupted isolated time alone with a child/teen
- ◆ Seeming too available or overindulgent with babysitting, outings or gifts (e.g., frequently babysits different children for free, takes children on special outings alone, buys children/teens gifts or gives them money for no apparent reason)
- ◆ Frequently walking in on children/teens in the bathroom
- ◆ Allowing children/teens to consistently get away with inappropriate behaviors
- ◆ Few/no age equivalent adult friendships/only friends are children/teens
- ◆ Adult's age equivalent friends exhibit similar behaviors as listed above

\*Note: the "or Your Own" in the title of this sub-section suggests that some of these points may serve as a self-check for whether the reader is leaning that way (or that an observer may become suspicious). If this is you, get help.

## Training Notes

All members of Church Safety Teams are encouraged to be trained and certified through the [Safety Member Certification](#) training program. The three available formats are:

- ◆ Church-hosted training classes (Team Certification)
- ◆ Self-paced online courses (Individual Training)
- ◆ Live Zoom classes (Online Events)

A key training module in the program is "[Protecting Children from Abuse v4](#)." It would be beneficial to have childcare and children's department workers, teachers, youth leaders, and the pastors audit this training module (only \$15 per person for Individual Training). In the Online Events schedule, this will be on October 2, 2022, December 11, 2022, February 19, 2023, and April 23, 2023 at 3:00 PM, Central Time.

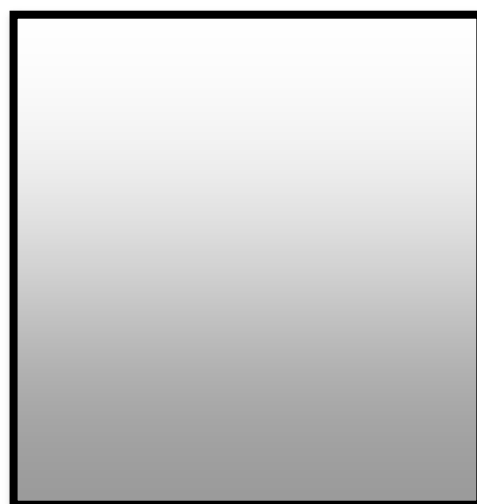
## Conclusion

We need to be able to identify sex offenders to keep them from abusing our children. We can do that through sex offender registries, screening organizations, and observations of behavior.

## There Is More

This is the third article for July. The others are "2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned), "Face-to-Face with Evil" (Engaging an Active Shooter), and "Categorically Dangerous" (Hurricane Safety).

## [Article References](#)



# CATEGORICALLY DANGEROUS

## Hurricane Safety

### Introduction

Hurricane season has already begun. It is expected to peak in late August or early September. Most of the impact of hurricanes is felt along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Coast, especially in the South. However, hurricane force storms can strike further inland, and tropical depressions (as hurricane remnants) can cause extensive flooding, as TD Camille did in 1969. Then there are extratropical cyclones and arctic/subarctic cyclones, such as nor'easters and polar vortexes.

The week before this article was written, a large, powerful storm system moved across the country. In Ohio, strong straight-line winds with gusts of up to 130 mph in places (Category 4 hurricane force) caused extensive damage. Thousands of households over a large area were without power, some for the rest of the week. In rural areas, this meant no water, since the pumps couldn't work. Mobile phones could not be charged except in vehicles. Stores ran low on common batteries used for lights (AA, AAA, C, and D). Many generators were sold. Some people with power or generators were letting friends without power use their freezers.

Fourteen years earlier, in September 2008, the remnant of Hurricane Ike traveled north from Texas. When the leading edge reached Lake Erie, it regained hurricane strength, causing a lot of damage with power outages lasting many days.

This is to say that hurricanes and their remnants can cause a lot of destruction and disruption, and not only where they make landfall. Churches need to be ready to protect themselves and serve their communities when threatened by hurricanes, as well as hurricane-strength storms, even indirectly.

**We feel like  
this when a  
hurricane is  
coming:**

**I would hasten  
my escape  
from the windy  
storm and  
tempest  
(Psalm 55:8).**

**The ship Paul  
was on was  
wrecked by a  
large storm:**

**And when  
neither sun  
nor stars in  
many days  
appeared, and  
no small  
tempest lay on  
us, all hope  
that we should  
be saved was  
then taken  
away**

**(Acts 27:20).**



## In the News

*Louisiana, August 27, 2020 and August 29, 2021* - Laura and Ida, two Category 4 hurricanes a year apart, damaged churches in Louisiana to varying degrees. Some buildings were destroyed, some survived with serious damage, and others had moderate to light damage. All were inconvenienced. Still, they found ways to help not only their own members, but also members of the community. These churches were also prepared for hurricanes. For instance, United Methodist congregations had secure digital copies of their records on file with the conference, and the conference helped congregations with cleanup and rebuilding.[2][3]

*Belton and Houston, Texas, August 26, 2017* - Thousands of people fled north as Hurricane Harvey approached the South Texas coast. When it made landfall near Corpus Christi, many of the refugees had found shelter in churches. For example, in Belton, about 30 miles north of Austin, the Church of Christ set up folding beds in its gymnasium, and the First Baptist Church also made accommodations for displaced persons.

Closer to Harvey's path, churches that escaped flooding in the Houston area welcomed storm-displaced people.

These and other churches had already planned and prepared for mass-evacuation emergencies. They had procured supplies (including folding beds) and trained volunteers to meet the needs of those fleeing disasters.[4]

*Atlantic Coast, United States, October 6-8, 2016* - Hurricane Matthew, which had been Category 5 when it hit several Caribbean islands, was Category 4 when it reached Florida. Brushing the Florida Coast, the center stayed over water and closely followed the coastline as it headed north, gradually weakening. Along the way, it took down power lines in several states, pounded coastal areas with storm surges, and flooded inland areas. Churches in low-lying areas cancelled Sunday services. Churches on higher ground and further inland provided shelter to evacuees and housed rescue and relief workers.[5][6][7]

## Videocast and Show Notes

Kris discusses the subject of this article in a [videocast](#) on the *Sheepdog Church Security Academy* channel on YouTube. Subscribing to the channel will keep you up-to-date on the videocasts. The audio is in a podcast on the *Sound Cloud* channel *Church Security Roll Call (CSRC)*.[8]

Below the video screen in the comments section is a link to the Show Notes (article summary), a downloadable PDF. This can be printed and shared. This download will be available until the next article is posted a week later.

## Dangerous in any Category

There's no such thing as a hurricane that is not dangerous. By definition, a hurricane has dangerous winds:

- ♦ Category 1 has sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph, while a tropical storm's wind speed is only 39 to 73 mph.
- ♦ Category 2 hurricanes (96-110 mph), listed as extremely dangerous, commonly make landfall in the U.S.
- ♦ At least one Category 3 hurricane (111-129) may be expected to hit in any year.
- ♦ Devastating Category 4 hurricanes (130-156 mph) are not unusual, but are not an every year event.
- ♦ Category 5 storms (157 mph or higher), such as Michael in 2016, are catastrophic wherever they hit, and thankfully are not common.

## Hurricane Impact Areas

Hurricanes and other large ocean-bred cyclonic storms could hit anywhere along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Coast of the United States. All states on the Gulf Coast and Atlantic states from Florida to North Carolina are at high risk for hurricanes, but they have hit Virginia (as did Fran in 1996), and can stay just off the coast clear up to New England. The Long Island Express hurricane in 1938 was Category 3 when it hit.[9]



More recently, in 2012, Hurricane Sandy raked the East Coast, then came ashore in New Jersey, causing shore erosion and widespread flooding. It traveled west northwest to Lake Huron, merging with a nor'easter on the way, bringing wind and rain far inland. It was wide enough to drench much of New England.[10]

Four years before that, in 2008, Ike followed an inland path north from the Texas coast, becoming an extra-tropical cyclone. It regained hurricane strength in the Great Lakes region. With a diameter of over 400 miles, it brought hurricane force winds to Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and continued into Canada.[11]

Arizona is not exempt from hurricane impacts. From 1921 to 2018, remnants of 50 tropical cyclones, 34 of them hurricanes, reached the state. Almost all were Pacific storms. Ten of them were tropical storms when they arrived, eight were tropical depressions, and most were remnant lows.[12] The most recent remnant was from Pacific Hurricane Nora in 2021. These systems brought heavy rain and flash flooding. [13]

Considering the record, a large portion of the United States has a chance of being affected by a hurricane and/or a nor'easter. The effects are wind damage (most severe near landfall), lightning and hail, tornadoes, storm surges and extreme high tides, excessive rain and flooding, landslides, power, telephone, and cable outages, and blocked roads. A hurricane can really be several kinds of hazardous weather in one large package.

## Preparing for Hurricanes

Preparing for a hurricane involves risk assessment, planning, construction, procurement, records preservation, and training.

### *Risk Assessment*

The function of risk assessment is not only seeing the likelihood of a certain event, but how severe it will likely be and the kinds of hazards it brings. For instance, if your church is on or near the Gulf Coast or Atlantic Coast, both the likelihood and severity of a hurricane are large, especially high winds, storm surges, and torrential rain. The likelihood of heavy rain extends further inland.

### *Planning*

Knowing what the church is most likely to face, and which severe hazards have at least a medium likelihood, you will know what to plan for. Some hazards may also come from other threats, such as thunder storms, tornadoes or winter storms. For instance, there are several potential causes of power outages. Also plan how to help refugees from hurricanes and other storms.

### *Construction*

Not every church building is in need of construction. If your congregation is planning a new building, include making it storm-proofed for the most likely weather systems. If you make it safe for an EF2 tornado, it might be hurricane-safe up to Category 3. If your church is in a high-probability hurricane landfall zone, Miami-Dade standards are recommended. Very revealing are aerial photos of damage by Hurricane Michael. Among flattened and shredded buildings were structures still standing intact. Design and construction do make a difference.

Needed improvements may be made to an existing structure. Some retrofitting may make the building more survivable.

If the church is where hurricane evacuees are likely to seek shelter, you may make places on the church campus, such as a gym, more suitable as a mass shelter. This could include higher-capacity restrooms, areas for showers and changing clothes, and food service facilities. Also include storage areas for equipment and supplies.

Of course, this all depends on the church's financial situation.

## *Procurement*

Get the equipment and supplies needed in case of a hurricane or its remnant. Many of them are useful for other emergencies, so the cost is justified in more than one way.

First items on an emergency list are battery-operated lights and batteries, first aid and mass trauma medical supplies, bottled drinking water, and long shelf-life ready-to-eat food. Additionally, have enough cleaning and sanitation supplies for an expected number of people for a long time. More supplies are listed in the [Church Security Guide](#) article "[Preparing for Natural Disasters](#)."

Depending on the level of a storm threat to the structure, the church may also need tools for removing debris and re-opening storm shelters.

## *Records Preservation*

If the church offices are destroyed or flooded, vital records may be lost. They could be lost in other disasters, such as a fire. Have copies of the church's legal, financial, personnel, membership, and insurance records, either physical or digital, filed off-site in a place likely to be safe from a strong storm.

## *Training*

Train staff and volunteers on what to do (including record keeping) when there is a storm warning, when the storm hits, and after the storm. This includes the Safety Team, pastors, office and custodial staff, teachers, and group leaders, as well as those who volunteer specifically for storm relief work.

Some church members might not be available to volunteer for regular tasks in the church because of work schedules or other responsibilities, but would volunteer for storm relief work, including helping sheltered evacuees. These may need to be trained individually or by twos or threes. This training includes orientation in where the equipment and supplies are and how the facilities are to be used - for persons already skilled in shelter care, this might be all they need.

## Training Notes

"Severe Weather and Natural Disasters" is a training module in the [Safety Member Certification](#) program. All Church Safety Team members are urged to be trained and certified through this program. It is easier to coordinate several persons and sub-groups when all have received the same training. Three training formats are available for the Safety Member Certification program: Team Certification (Church-hosted classes), Individual Certification (self-paced online courses), and Online Events (live Zoom classes for teams and individual members). This training module could be audited by others who would plan for and respond to such an event.[1]

The Church Security Guide article "[Preparing for Natural Disasters](#)" covers many weather events: hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, landslides, tsunamis, thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, and volcanoes. It also advises on essential emergency supplies, backing up records, getting information on how to shelter people, and planning how to continue ministry if the church building is destroyed.[14]


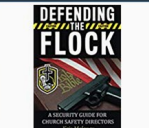





## Conclusion

Now that it is hurricane season, what if one comes your way? How do you prepare for and respond to a hurricane?

## There Is More

This is the last weekly article for July. The others are "2017 Sutherland Springs Church Shooting" (Lesson Learned), "Face-to-Face with Evil" (Engaging an Active Shooter), and "The Who's Who of Child Safety" (Identifying Sexual Offenders).

## [Article References](#)

		<b>RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SAFETY MINISTRIES</b>
		
		
<b>VISIT THE SDCS ONLINE STORE</b>		



# CHURCH SECURITY ROLL CALL

WEEKLY TIPS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHURCH SECURITY TEAMS  
HOSTED BY KRIS MOLONEY



## First Baptist Church Shooting

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## Engaging an Active Shooter

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## Identifying Sexual Offenders

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## Hurricane Safety

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# SHEEPDOG'S MONTHLY GUEST ARTICLE

## WHAT'S IN YOUR....?

BY: TERRY B.

No...

This is not a credit card commercial...

But instead, it's a question to ask what is inside your AED cabinet.

If "An AED" was your only answer, my response would be another TV Commercial Tag Line...

"But Wait! There's More!"

AED Cabinets are usually placed in areas of prominence and are easily identified and found.

But what goes in an AED cabinet?? Well, yes, An AED does. But what else can fit in that well placed cabinet??

How about putting some other gear in there that just may be needed in an emergency?

Like A Bleeding Control Kit, and an Overdose Kit, and a BVM?

Let's start with a small Bleeding Control kit.

I have used a nice little Molle pouch (just a cheap one from Amazon) that measures about 8 inches by 5 inches to store all the contents.

It is also important to make sure that you have some type of breakaway seal on the kit to assure the contents have not been disturbed.

I'm not going to go into great anatomy and physiology of hemorrhaging here but just a little about the contents. We can do the A&P in a future article if you would like though.

But for now, I will simply list what I believe to be a minimum requirement in a first response Bleeding Control Kit.

The 10 contents of a Bleeding Control kit and their use include:

1. Three Pair of Large Medical Gloves, because two is good, three is better.
2. One SAM XT Extremity Tourniquet. I realize that saying you have a favorite tourniquet will get a ton of keyboard warriors flexing thier fingers, but I feel that the SAM XT tourniquet is the most user-friendly tourniquet on the market. (Yes, That's my opinion and I'm stickin to it!) If you're not excited about The Sam XT, I would encourage you to make sure that whatever tourniquet that you do go with is approved by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC).
1. One packet of Celox 3"x5' Z-fold Hemostatic gauze or compatible. This package of Celox is 3 inches by Five Feet and its z-folded so it lays flatter in storage.
2. Two Kerlex Gauze Rolls for wound packing as well as can be used as bandages over dressings.
3. Two Multi-Trauma ABD Dressing or comparable trauma dressings.
4. Two 4-inch Velcro Elastic Bandages to be used as bandages as well as somewhat pressure dressings.
5. One pair 7-inch Trauma Shears, two pair if possible. (Redundancy is always a good thing if room allows)
6. One Sharpie permanent marker if you're the "must write the time of tourniquet application" type. I am not a huge proponent of writing the time of tourniquet application. Yes, I do know why, so don't email me! I'm just not convinced that there are places that if a tourniquet is applied, that the patient will not be in an Emergency Department within six hours. Plus, most markers almost always dry out over time
7. One Emergency Medical Blanket to prevent shock and hypothermia. These "foil" blankets take up very little space and can be included little concern for space.
8. The last item is not in the kit but between your ears! Get training in Bleeding Control! If someone hands you a tourniquet, you need to know how to apply it!

Next in line for space rental in the AED cabinet is an Overdose Kit.

This kit includes a dose of Narcan, otherwise known by its generic name of Naloxone. This is a Narcotic antagonist and is used to treat many types of drug overdoses. It is sprayed via an applicator into the nostrils of the nose of someone suspected of overdosing.



Many say that they will never have the need for this treatment, but those are the ones most often in need of it. Never say never! If your organization is used by anyone in the community or outside support groups, then this is an absolute must have for your AED cabinet.

The third piece of equipment that should be kept in an AED cabinet if space allows is a Bag Valve Mask. Otherwise known as a BVM.

With the pandemic going strong for now, and the real desire to never ever exchange fluids with a complete stranger, a BVM is a must. Hands only CPR only works so well. The oxygenated blood that you are pumping with hands only CPR only lasts a few minutes. After that you need to reoxygenate that blood.

So with the ideas presented above, I will ask again, What's in your AED cabinet?

If you would like more information on anything I have brought up in this article, or would like to talk about having me come to your facility to do some training, or if you would like to discuss where I am wrong, I am always willing to look at another option for most treatment modalities. Send me an email at [terry@churchemergency.com](mailto:terry@churchemergency.com)



Terry Berringer is the owner/operator of Church Emergency Consulting. He was the founder, developer, trainer and director of the security, parking and medical teams of one of the largest congregations in south-west Pennsylvania for over 20 years.

**To learn more, click on the image below:**



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Emergency  
Consulting**

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# ONSITE INSTRUCTORS

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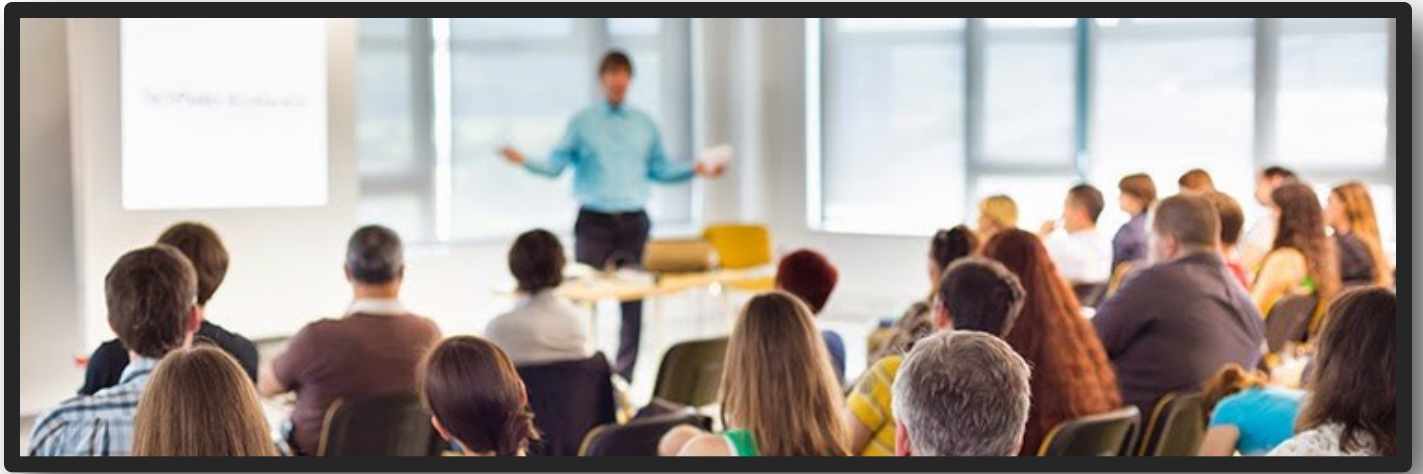
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## SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

UNFORTUANTLY THERE ARE NO SHEEPDOG SEMINARS  
OR OTHER CHURCH SECURITY SEMINARS  
SCHEDULED AS OF AUGUST 9TH, 2022.

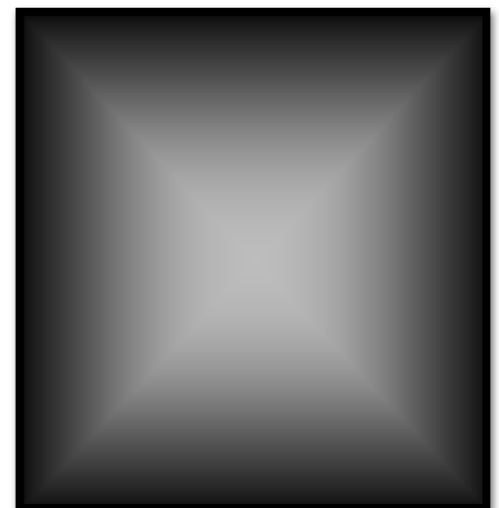
If you know of any other Church Safety Seminars or  
Conferences and would like to see them featured on the  
Church Guardian, Please Contact us via Email at  
[Kris@SheepdogChurchSecurity.net](mailto:Kris@SheepdogChurchSecurity.net)

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# SHEEPDOG CORNER

*Hi Sheepdog,*

As crazy as it sounds to me, the summer is just about over. The next newsletter is going to arrive in your inbox just as the new “school” year kicks off for many houses of worship. This usually means the Children’s Ministry is recruiting new volunteers to cover all the programs they have planned. Basically, every ministry is going to be rushing to get things done. I’ve never been at a church that wasn’t a little chaotic in September.

With that said, it would be wise for all of us to start planning for the Safety Ministry. Below is my checklist to help you.

1. Assess Safety Team: Size, Availability, and Training
2. Compare to upcoming Planned Events and Services
3. Safety Team Recruitment to Meet the Demand
4. Review Vetting Process for New Recruits
5. Training Plan for old and new Safety Team Members
6. Develop and Schedule Training Events and Drills
7. Pray for a Safe and Successful Year

We have a lot of work to do over the next month or two BUT I’m here to help in anyway possible. Please feel free to call me Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Central Time. 612-470-7364

***Your Loyal Companion in Christ,***

***Kris P. Moloney***



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**Kris P. Moloney**

A Police Officer with over 18 years of experience and a retired Army Captain and Company Commander. He has certifications in Crime Prevention, Security Assessments, and the Crime Free Program. He also has a Bachelor’s degree in Ministry and a Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership.